

FBIS**DAILY REPORT**
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VOP CONDEMNS REPORTED 'ARAFAT STATEMENT TO FINDLEY

JN022328Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Congressman Paul Findley said yesterday that Mr Yasir 'Arafat had agreed to end the armed struggle and recognize the existence of the Zionist entity as a fait accompli if Mr Yasir 'Arafat gets a Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza. The U.S. congressman pointed out that this took place during his meeting with 'Arafat last week. At the end of that meeting, 'Arafat handed him a letter for U.S. President Carter.

On our side, we hope this news is fabricated and false, but previous events and the general course of the PLO leadership make us deduce that what the U.S. congressman said was true. This imposes on us and on the masses a number of questions. In whose name does the Palestinian line of settlement continue forms of political flirting with U.S. imperialism? In whose name do some allow themselves to offer guarantees and pledges to end the armed struggle against the enemy if they are able to have a state on a part of the soil of Palestine? If such a matter is not considered new for the leaders of the settlement line, it is considered a serious discrepancy at this serious stage.

Is U.S. imperialism not the patron of the Camp David plot and the economic and military support of the Zionist enemy? Is it not the mortal enemy of our nation and cause, beginning with its financial support of the enemy and ending with the official stand that opposes any form of solidarity with our Palestinian people? If U.S. imperialism is thus, from what position do the leaders of the settlement line flirt with it and in whose name are they offering it guarantees and begging it to recognize them as representatives of our people in the settlement negotiations?

It has become clear that the adherence of the Palestinian settlement line to the strings of relations with the Egyptian regime, the continuation of its dialog of coordination regarding the settlement with some other official sides, as well as its contacts with the isolationist forces in Lebanon are not individual efforts nor isolated from the delusions of settlement with the enemy. They are links complementing these delusions.

The secret and public contacts with U.S. imperialism come to affirm that the talks of the settlement line about the Camp David dangers and its rejection of the Camp David accords are only a temporary stand that can be changed at any time and utilized in the service of the call for modifying these accords or broadening their scope of negotiation to include the settlement line. Those who are flirting with U.S. imperialism cannot fight it or oppose all its plans. The seriousness of this stand is not confined to the fact that it is a stab to the dialog for national unity or a concession to the principles of the Palestinian revolution, but exceeds that to touch on any other Arab stand opposing the Camp David plot and the U.S. imperialist enemy, and constitutes a justification to be utilized by the Camp David advocates and the tools of imperialism in distorting what is taking place before the Arab citizen.

We can imagine how the Egyptian regime will be able to make use of an official Palestinian stand that tries to be amicable to the United States so this regime can further indulge in justifying its pan-Arab treason and its link to U.S. imperialism and the innovation of the 99 percent of the cards to a solution. [as heard]

The solidity and originality of the Palestinian stand in opposing the schemes of imperialism should polarize more Arab popular insistence on confronting imperialism with all its schemes and interests. It is necessary to consecrate popular rejection of these contacts as was consecrated against contacts with the isolationists.

Let all forces opposing the Camp David plot and the plot of settlement in general be mobilized, in order to prove to imperialism that the one who makes contact with it, flirts with it or tries to be friendly with it does so only in his own name and not on behalf of our Palestinian people or our Arab nation. The masses of our people and nation insist on thwarting the plot through the open doors of fighting in Palestine, which are approached from all fronts. There will be no other way.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES BULGARIAN AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT

JN031501Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1400 GMT 3 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar yesterday received the Bulgarian ambassador in Lebanon. The meeting dealt with current Palestinian, Arab and international issues.

BREZHNEV SENDS CABLE OF THANKS TO PLO'S 'ARAFAT

JN031507Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1400 GMT 3 Dec 78 JN

[Cable from USSR leader Leonid Brezhnev to Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Forces of the Palestinian Revolution]

[Text] Comrade Yasir 'Arafat, I send my thanks to you and to the PLO leadership for your warm congratulations and sincere wishes on the 61st anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. In the name of the Soviet people and the communist party, I wish the heroic Palestinian people under the PLO success in their just struggle against Israeli aggression and world imperialism and for the restoration of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, their right to sovereignty and to establish their independent national state.

PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO CONVENE IN BEIRUT 4 DECEMBER

JN031839Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Dec 78 JN

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee will begin a series of meetings in Beirut tomorrow under Yasir 'Arafat to appraise the talks which took place recently in Amman between the Palestinian delegation under Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council, and Jordanian officials.

PALESTINIAN SOURCE ON POST TREATY ARAB-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS

JN020934Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Dec 78 p 1 JN

[Text] Cairo--A well-informed Palestinian source in Cairo has stated that the PLO will close its main office in Cairo immediately upon the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

The source said that Fatah will also close all its offices in Egypt upon the signing of the treaty. The Palestinian source added that the Arab countries will withdraw their ambassadors from Cairo immediately upon the exchanging of ambassadors between Egypt and Israel.

DPFLP REPORTS 25 NOVEMBER CLASH WITH JORDANIAN FORCES

JN031909Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Dec 78 JN

[Text] The Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DPFLP] issued a statement in Beirut today in which it announced that a group of its fighters clashed with Jordanian forces in the Jordan Valley on 25 November. The statement, which was published by the Lebanese papers today, added that a Palestinian fighter was martyred and another was wounded and arrested following the clash with the Jordanian forces. The statement further said that the group was heading toward usurped Palestine to carry out its militant duty of fighting the Zionist enemy when the Jordanian forces intercepted it and engaged it in fighting. The statement pointed out that the clash lasted more than 1 hour.

PNC CHAIRMAN COMMENTS ON LEBANON, TALKS WITH JORDAN

JN011830Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1400 GMT 1 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council [PNC], yesterday stated that the Palestinian revolution is present in Lebanon to oppose settling of Palestinians in Lebanon and resist the Zionist occupation of Palestine. Al-Fahum added that the Palestinians consider themselves guests among their Lebanese brothers and that they do not wish to interfere in Lebanon's internal affairs. He added that the Palestinians will not remain in Lebanon for one day after the liberation of Palestine and their return. In a press interview, Al-Fahum reaffirmed the support of the Palestinian resistance for Lebanese legitimacy and stressed its adherence to the Cairo agreements and its annexes. Al-Fahum said that the Palestinians consider any contact or cooperation between any Lebanese faction and the Zionist enemy as a hostile act to the Palestinian cause, the struggle of the Palestinian people and the future of [words indistinct].

Speaking about the Palestinian-Jordanian dialog, brother Al-Fahum said that the aim behind this dialog is to discard marginal differences and to group all capabilities and efforts to foil the Camp David results and their harmful effects and to confront the self-rule conspiracy on which As-Sadat bases his claims that he is not undertaking a separate peace settlement. Concluding his statement, the PNC chairman praised the Iraqi-Syrian rapprochement and said: During the past years, we have exerted continued efforts to achieve this rapprochement. The PLO is basic [words indistinct] in this rapprochement.

FATAH CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETS IN DAMASCUS 1 DECEMBER

JN020741Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 0500 GMT 2 Dec 78 JN

[Text] The Fatah Central Committee met in Damascus yesterday. During the meeting, the Central Committee discussed the current situation as it reflects on the Palestinian, Arab and international levels. The Central Committee appreciated the Arab and international solidarity with the Palestinian revolution, the Palestinian people and the PLO. This solidarity was manifested on 29 November, which was celebrated as the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people. The Fatah Central Committee expressed its thanks and gratitude for the total solidarity expressed by the United Nations, the Arab countries, the nonaligned countries, the Islamic countries and the socialist countries, the foremost of which is the Soviet Union. The Central Committee praised the firm position of our masses in the occupied territories in resisting the occupation and the self-rule plot. This position was manifested on the international day of solidarity. The Fatah Central Committee was briefed on the outcome of the Palestinian delegation's visit to Jordan. The committee conducted a comprehensive appraisal of [words indistinct].

KUWAIT

CROWN PRINCE BEGINS TOUR OF ARAB GULF STATES

LD021058Y Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0700 GMT 2 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Kuwait, December 2, KUNA--Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah, crown prince and prime minister, left for Riyadh this morning at the start of a tour of Arab Gulf states that includes Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE and Oman. On this tour, which will last for 18 days, the crown prince is accompanied by a high-level delegation which includes Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; 'Abd ar-Rahman Al'atqi, minister of finance; Jasim al-M'rzuq, minister of education; and 'Abd al-Wahhad an-Nufaysi, minister of trade. [name and title as received]

The crown prince was seen off at the airport by Shaykh Jabir al-'Ali as-Sabah, deputy prime minister and minister of information, and other senior state officials.

In a statement prior to his departure, Shaykh Sa'd said that his tour comes as part of implementing Kuwait's policy of achieving further coordination, consultation and cooperation with all gulf countries. He said that, as a result of its study of present conditions, Kuwait has a full picture of methods of cooperation to be applied at the present and in future. He said: This cooperation is designed to achieve further cooperation and cohesion with all other gulf countries, and it is also intended to achieve further stability and prosperity for the peoples of this region. Shaykh Sa'd mentioned that he carried private messages from His Highness Amir Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah to the heads of the states he is visiting.

QATAR

AMIR ADDRESSES CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL ON MIDEAST ISSUES

NC021221Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0930 GMT 2 Dec 78 NC

[Excerpts] Doha, 2 December--The amir of Qatar, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn Hamad Al Thani, opened the seventh ordinary session of the Qatari Consultative Council this morning.

His highness delivered a 30-minute comprehensive speech on the occasion.

In his speech, Shaykh Khalifah Ibn Hamad Al Thani emphasized that throughout its long history the Arab nation has never experienced a phase in which it faced such delicate and serious decisions and stands as those it faces in the current fateful period.

His highness emphasized that the only positive way to achieve the Arab nation's goal is for it to be bigger than the factors of its division, regardless of how strong these factors are, and for its commitment to solidarity to be greater than its differences, regardless of the causes of these differences.

His highness said that Qatar had welcomed participation in the Baghdad summit conference--called by Iraq--on the basis of its firm belief that an Arab meeting at the highest level within the most extensive framework possible was necessitated by the fateful phase through which the Arab nation is passing.

It has needed to handle the new Arab situation, which was created by developments following announcement of the Camp David conference documents and for the sake of avoiding any further division in the ranks of the Arab nation and forestalling any serious damage that this division might cause to our common national issue.

In his speech, the amir said that Qatar, like the entire Arab nation, affirms its profound esteem for fraternal Egypt for the significant services and sacrifices which Egypt has offered in the course of protecting its Arab nation, helping it achieve its goals and defending its rights and honor during this nation's long and glorious struggle, for which Egypt had always been a staunch and strong support.

His highness affirmed that Egypt has been and can only continue to be an indivisible part of the Arab nation. He said: "I cannot imagine that there could be any reasons or circumstances capable of dividing it and its sisters."

His highness expressed his full support for the resolutions adopted by the Arab foreign ministers conference, which was held in Bayt ad-Din--near Beirut--recently. He affirmed Qatar's full conviction that the desired return to normal conditions in Lebanon will only come at the hands of its leaders and through a comprehensive Lebanese reconciliation under the umbrella of Lebanese legitimacy.

His highness spoke about events in Iran, pointing out Qatar's strong interest in it in view of the fact that Iran "is a dear and friendly neighbor, with which we are united by the brotherhood of Islam." He expressed the hope that "Iran will be able to enjoy the security and stability it deserves--security and stability that would fulfill its aspirations for prosperity and welfare under the leadership of his majesty our brother, the shah, for whom and for whose significant services to his fraternal country we have the deepest esteem."

He said that the establishment of security and stability in Iran will strengthen the security balance in the area.

His highness affirmed that his country will spare no efforts in shouldering its share in the common efforts by the Arab Gulf countries to strengthen their ties among themselves in order to achieve their goals. He said that increasing the power of this important Arab region and its continued progress are among the effective factors that would enable it to provide more support for the collective Arab capability throughout our vast Arab homeland and more ability to support our Arab nation.

SAUDI ARABIA

KUWAITI CROWN PRINCE ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

LD021440Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0930 GMT 2 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpt] Riyadh--His Highness Shaykh Sa'id al-'Abdallah, crown prince and chairman of the Council of Ministers of Kuwait, arrived in Riyadh at 1145 on a 5-day official visit to the kingdom at the start of a tour to 5 gulf countries. To welcome him at the airport were His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers.

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ARABIAN PENINSULA

Received by King

LD021746Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 2 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Khalid Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, at 1700 this afternoon at his office at Al-Ma'dhar Palace, received His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah, crown prince and Kuwaiti prime minister, who is currently visiting the kingdom.

UAE

SEYCHELLES MINISTER ARRIVES IN ABU DHABI FROM MUSCAT

JN040727Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0645 GMT 4 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 4 December--Dr Maxime Ferrari, minister of economic development, planning, housing and works at the Republic of Seychelles, this morning arrived in Abu Dhabi from Muscat for a 2-day official visit within a tour he is making in several states of the area, including the Sultanate of Oman, Kuwait and the UAE. He was met at the airport by Nasir an-Nuways, director general of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Economic Development, and several UAE officials.

Dr Ferrari said on his arrival that he is carrying a letter to UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from President Albert France Rene, president of the Republic of Seychelles, dealing with strengthening bilateral relations. He said that during his visit, he will hold talks with UAE officials on strengthening economic and trade relations and he will have talks with the officials of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Economic Development to discuss the possibility of having the fund finance road, airport and electricity projects included in the 5-year development plan in his country.

Dr Ferrari said that his country attaches great significance to implementing these projects and is making various contacts to finance them, in order to develop the economy of the Republic of Seychelles and to greatly increase tourism.

YEMEN--PDNY

'ALI NASIR MUHAMMAD ADDRESSES NATION ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

LD011804Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Nov 78 LD/EA

[Excerpts] The people, party and government are celebrating the 11th anniversary of national independence. Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidential Council and Council of Ministers, made an important political speech last night to the masses of the people, in which he conveyed the congratulations of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party and the government of the revolution on this glorious occasion.

Addressing the masses of the people, he said: Our celebration of this anniversary is a celebration of great achievements. Our 11th year of independence has been a year of tasks and decisions. We announced the establishment of the Yemeni Socialist Party, a party which guarantees the revolution and its perpetuity. We also celebrated the 15th anniversary of the outbreak of armed revolution. We are now preparing for general, equal, free and direct elections to the Supreme People's Assembly and the start of the Second 5-Year Plan, the guidelines of which were approved at our great party's first congress and the allocations for which amount to 390 million dinars.

The current year, 1978, has been a year of momentous tasks. It has been a year of decisive steps against the opportunist leftist current which tried, by various treasonous and childish methods, to impede our development and to divert the course of the revolution in order to put (our country back under) reactionary and imperialist forces on 26 June, after a series of incorrect and opportunist practices. Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, Political Bureau member and chairman of the Presidential Council and Council of Ministers, noted the resolve and readiness of our party, the masses of our people and their armed forces to defend the sovereignty of our homeland and the achievements of our people and not to renounce a single inch of our Yemeni territory. He said: We will not renounce, or retreat from, the strategic aims of the Yemeni revolution.

Speaking about the situation in the Yemeni arena, he said that the instability of conditions in the Yemeni arena was a matter for concern, since it fell within the scope of our national cause. Our government has already stressed that the main cause of tension and instability in the Yemeni arena was foreign interference in the northern part of our homeland. This did not afford us the opportunity as Yemenis, to devote ourselves to peacefully solving our problems and to continue our efforts to eliminate the factors of partition of the two sections of our homeland.

Right from the start, we rejected propaganda bickering. We called on the rulers of San'a' to resort to reason and logic in dealing with a number of proposals but they were rejected by the San'a' government. Brothers mediated to prevent heightened tension between the two parts. However, these mediations, which we welcomed, were rejected by some officials in the San'a' government. This confirms the reality of the hegemony and flagrant foreign interference in the affairs of the northern part of our homeland.

Our government declares afresh its adherence to the Yemeni people's right to the unity of their national soil and categorically rejects war between the two parts. It will also reject and resist any interference in the affairs of the Yemeni people in the two parts. In order to fulfill the hope of the Yemeni people for unity, our government declares its readiness to discuss the question of fulfilling Democratic Yemeni unity, which is a popular demand, a fateful cause and one of the strategic aims of the 26th September and 14th October glorious revolutions.

Brother Ali Nasir Muhammad, Political Bureau member and chairman of the Presidential Council and Council of Ministers, said: Such a noble aim will be fulfilled by the will of the Yemeni people and their generous and progressive forces. Just as we reject interference in the internal affairs of our Yemeni people, we also reject the continued partition between the two parts, because partition is incompatible with the hopes and aspirations of the Yemeni people. There is nothing that justifies the denial of this popular demand. It would be treason to the homeland and an insistence on secession, which our people have and will always resist.

On the Arab level, brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad stressed that Democratic Yemen is and will continue to be firmly committed to Arab solidarity in the fight against imperialism and Zionism. He reiterated Democratic Yemen's support for the struggle of the Omani people, led by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman. He declared Democratic Yemen's solidarity with the struggle of the people of Iran and stressed Democratic Yemen's adherence to the resolutions of the ninth Arab summit conference, convened in Baghdad, rejecting capitulationist solutions, and its adherence to the resolutions of the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation. He also stressed Democratic Yemen's continued offer of support for the struggle of the Palestinian people, led by the Palestine Liberation Organization. Ending his speech, Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad lauded the struggles of the Arab and world liberation movements.

He praised our country's relations with socialist Ethiopia and declared our country's support for the struggle of the Ethiopian people. He declared our country's support for all the peoples in Africa, Asia and Latin American who are struggling for progress. He also praised the assistance being given to our country by the Arab brothers and socialist countries, headed by the USSR.

YEMEN--YAR

PRESIDENT GRANTS INTERVIEW TO LONDON NEWSPAPER AL-'ARAB

JN021935Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Dec 78 JN

[Text of interview with Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the YAR and commander in chief of the armed forces, by Shawqi Ibrahim, managing editor of the London-based newspaper AL-'ARAB--date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: It has been reported that the coup attempt of 15 October was masterminded by elements from a Nassirite organization and that an (?Arab) state is behind the coup. What are the facts of the issue and what are the results of your investigations?

Answer: That is true. We considered them part of our national regime and we gave them the opportunity to widen the base of their participation in the government despite our knowledge of their identity. This was because of our conviction that they, like many other Arab youths, were only influenced by the late President Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir and that they had no conspiratorial relations with outside quarters. However, we were surprised by what we found through their confessions before the court, which held its sessions openly. It was revealed that they received money and arms from an outside quarter and plotted with that quarter to stage a coup. The attempted coup was completely foiled in 45 minutes. The hired plotters fell victim to their own folly.

I do not want to mention the name of the Arab state which helped them and encouraged them to do this. Yet, I feel pain that a fraternal and nonhostile state has conspired against us, despite the fact that there had not been, between this state and our country, any disputes or reasons for any differences. Yet, we do not mention its name or the names of its leaders. This is not because we fear its ability and resources but we are concerned for the fraternal relations between our people and its fraternal people.

Question: What are the facts concerning the presence of thousands of YAR citizens in the south and the presence of southern citizens in the north?

Answer: I tell you without exaggeration that in the north there are more than 400,000 citizens born in the south staying in our country [words indistinct]. In the south, there are not even 1,000 citizens from the north. I challenge the Aden regime to agree that a neutral and independent commission be set up to count the people born in the south who are staying in the north and vice versa, in order to reveal the truth.

Question: There are rumors of large-scale moves by the Yemen Democratic Front these days. What is your opinion of this organization and its aims and finances?

Answer: This alleged front is a mere framework for the activities of sabotage and conspiracy of the Aden regime against our citizens in the north. In order to assure you that the Aden regime is plotting against us and not the other way around, you only have to know that the headquarters of this alleged front is in Aden.

CAIRO ON CARTER-KHALIL TALKS, VANCE-KHALIL PRESS CONFERENCE

NC020632Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 2 Dec 78 NC

[Text] U.S. President Jimmy Carter met for about 3 hours with Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil at the White House last night. At the beginning of the meeting, U.S. President Carter expressed hope that his meeting with Dr Mustafa Khalil would provide an opportunity to achieve progress. He also expressed his conviction that Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin will respond to President as-Sadat's initiative. Carter added that during his meeting with Dr Mustafa Khalil, he would have the opportunity to discuss President as-Sadat's views and proposals. He expressed confidence that these views and proposals would be constructive.

The U.S. President added that he will not lose hope despite the temporary setbacks.

After the meeting, Dr Mustafa Khalil and U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance held a joint press conference at the White House. Talking to journalists, Dr Mustafa Khalil expressed pleasure at meeting with U.S. President Carter. He said: In Egypt we appreciate President Carter's great efforts. We are confident that the U.S. Government is determined to carry out its role as a full partner in bringing the negotiations to a happy end. We share the U.S. view that comprehensive peace in the Middle East is important to all parties.

Dr Mustafa Khalil also said: We are working toward this aim and we hope to achieve it provided there is good will and determination on all sides.

Replying to a question, Dr Khalil said: I cannot at present give any details about the discussion which took place between President Carter and me. Dr Mustafa Khalil said that President as-Sadat has sent a letter to Israeli Prime Minister Begin. He said that the Israeli Cabinet will meet tomorrow to discuss the letter. He said it is too early to pass judgment on the Israeli reaction.

Dr Mustafa Khalil said that he believes that President as-Sadat's letter to Menahem Begin contains very constructive views and opens the door to a resumption of the negotiations.

U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance stated that President Carter has received from the Egyptian prime minister a letter from President as-Sadat containing his views regarding the peace agreement. Vance said that during the meeting, this agreement was reviewed and discussed in detail by President Carter and Dr Mustafa Khalil, who also exchanged views on the progress of the talks and the way to resume and expedite them.

Vance said that both Egypt and Israel have agreed to resume the negotiations in Washington at a date to be fixed later. President Carter expressed a strong view that the resumption of the talks is a matter on which the Egyptian prime minister and President Carter agree. Vance said that the talks will continue in implementation of the Camp David agreements.

Vance described the meeting as useful. He said that he will meet with Dr Mustafa Khalil today to resume the discussions they began yesterday.

Asked by a journalist whether Israel has agreed to resume the negotiations, Vance replied: Israel has already announced its readiness to resume the talks.

To another question, Vance said that the question of linking the Sinai agreement and the future of the West Bank and Gaza sector was debated at the White House meeting yesterday.

Cyrus Vance and presidential national security adviser Brzezinski attended the Carter-Khalil meeting.

Khalil Discusses Situation

NC030606Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 3 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil met with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance at the U.S. State Department last night. The meeting was attended on the U.S. side by roving Ambassador Alfred Atherton and some members of the U.S. delegation to the peace negotiations. On the Egyptian side, it was attended by Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Dr Usamah al-Baz and Egyptian delegation member Dr 'Abdallah al-'Aryan.

After the 2-hour meeting, Dr Mustafa Khalil said he has postponed his departure from Washington in order to hold more consultations. Dr Mustafa Khalil denied that he has postponed his departure from Washington to wait for Israel's answer to the letter which President as-Sadat has sent to Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin. Mustafa Khalil described yesterday's consultations as constructive and said that they were a continuation of the consultations which began the day before yesterday.

Asked if Egypt has officially decided to resume the negotiations or just wishes the talks to resume, Dr Khalil said that Egypt wants a resumption of the negotiations.

Asked about the secret of his lengthy meetings with President Carter and Cyrus Vance, Dr Mustafa Khalil said: We sometimes discuss side issues.

On reports that the United States is urging Egypt to abandon its reservations about article 6 of the draft treaty, Dr Mustafa Khalil said this issue was not raised during his discussions with Vance.

Asked how long he will stay in Washington, Dr Khalil said he might leave tomorrow or perhaps later. He added that the itinerary of his visit to a number of European states will naturally be changed as a result of the postponement of the date of his departure from Washington.

The prime minister further said that he will meet again with the U.S. secretary of state but that the exact time of the meeting has not been fixed.

MINISTER GHALI MEETS WITH OAU SECRETARY GENERAL

NC021313Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali this afternoon met with OAU Secretary General Edem Kodjo to discuss the most important current African issues and the developments of the Middle East crisis in light of the efforts Egypt is exerting to find a just comprehensive solution to the crisis. A review will also be made during the meeting of the subjects submitted to the permanent committee for Arab-African cooperation which is scheduled to convene in Kuwait the day after tomorrow.

GHALI MEETS FRENCH ENVOY; NOTES IMPORTANCE OF LINKAGE

NC021600Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali met with the French ambassador to Egypt today.

Ghali explained to the ambassador Egypt's viewpoint regarding the need to achieve a just and lasting peace to the Middle East crisis and to link any Egyptian-Israeli settlement with a settlement in the West Bank and Gaza in order to make peace possible in the Middle East. Dr Butrus Ghali also spoke of the necessity of a European role in support of the efforts to establish peace in the Middle East.

Meanwhile, Dr Ghali said after his meeting with OAU Secretary General Dr Edem Kodjo today that he emphasized to the OAU secretary general that Egypt is interested in Arab-African solidarity. He said that this solidarity must be strengthened and must not be influenced by Arab differences.

Dr Butrus Ghali also reaffirmed Egypt's willingness to provide all the necessary Egyptian expertise to strengthen the OAU.

The OAU secretary general arrived in Cairo at noon today for a visit to Egypt lasting several hours. He is due to leave for Kuwait to attend the meetings of the permanent committee for Arab-African cooperation, which is scheduled to begin there on Monday.

GHALI INTERVIEWED BY AL-AHRAM ON WASHINGTON TALKS

NC030946Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0812 GMT 3 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 3 December--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stated that U.S. President Carter has suggested the exchange of letters between Egypt and Israel to overcome the obstacle to establishing a link between the Egyptian-Israeli draft treaty and a solution to the Palestinian question. He added that Egypt demands that these letters be identical in their provisions and that they include a timetable for the stages of establishing the self-rule institutions in the West Bank and Gaza and for ending the military rule there.

In an interview published by AL-AHRAM today, Dr Butrus Ghali says that these letters differ from the previously exchanged letters on Jerusalem, which indicate an identity of views between Egypt and the United States and a disagreement between Egypt and Israel. He adds that the new letters have the force of an international treaty and that Egypt demands that they be signed at the same time the Egyptian-Israeli agreement is signed.

Asked whether the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli draft treaty in implementation of the two Camp David accords will take place before 17 December, Dr Butrus Ghali says: The sides to the Camp David agreement have fixed a 3-month deadline for signing the treaty but now that they feel this is difficult to meet, it is possible that the parties may agree on another date and postpone this deadline for another period. He adds: If Israel refuses to extend the proposed period, it would mean that it does not want peace. Personally, I do not expect it to object to this. The U.S. side, in its capacity as a full partner, must agree to the postponement. Thus, the negotiations would continue to overcome the remaining obstacles.

Dr Butrus Ghali denies that Egypt has approved the Egyptian-Israeli draft treaty published by the press. He says that this remains a mere draft treaty. Israel has approved this draft treaty but it has not agreed to the letters of fixing a timetable for the withdrawal and the establishment of the self-rule institutions in the West Bank and Gaza. Although it is a full partner in the negotiations, having weight and importance in supporting or not supporting the draft, the United States is not an original party which must approve or reject this draft.

The minister of state for foreign affairs explains that the plan at the table of negotiations now is not a U.S. plan but that it is a plan which has been reached during 4 weeks of negotiations. It is based on the U.S. plan. Egypt introduced amendments to the U.S. plan and Israel introduced amendments to the Egyptian proposals. Therefore, it is not right to consider the present plan a final plan.

Dr Butrus Ghali says that as long as Egypt has not approved the proposed draft treaty, the Egyptian negotiator has the right to demand that it be amended and that some of its articles be clarified. He stresses that these clarifications and amendments are in the interests of peace because the provisions of the draft treaty have become the subject of different interpretations, even before signing the draft.

In his interview, Dr Butrus Ghali stresses that Egypt will continue to demand a comprehensive solution whose essence and core is a just solution of all aspects of the Palestinian question. He says: From the first day of the discussions we proposed to the U.S. side and the Israeli negotiator the question of the linkage. The United States supported us in this. He adds: The principles of the Egyptian-Israeli agreement achieved at Camp David stem basically from the principles of the framework for peace agreement or the mother agreement. The three leaders signed the two Camp David agreements at the same time.

Dr Butrus Ghali explains that the two Camp David agreements include stages for the establishment of self-rule institutions in the West Bank and Gaza, ending the military rule and transferring power there, withdrawal of the Israeli forces to specific positions and the participation of the Palestinian people in determining their future.

The minister of state for foreign affairs points out that Israel is in an isolated position now. He says: Now that Israel has approved and signed the Camp David agreements, it must commit itself to the question of linkage and approve the timetable, or it would be violating its commitments less than 3 months after the ratification of the two Camp David agreements.

In his interview with AL-AHRAM, Dr Butrus Ghali affirms that the text of article 6 of the proposed draft peace agreement does not prevent Egypt from exercising its right to legal individual or collective defense in the event of Israeli aggression. He explains that this means that the joint Arab defense treaty takes precedence over the provisions of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty.

The minister of state for foreign affairs explains that Israel has tried to exploit article 6 of the draft and has come up with the opposite interpretation. He says: This is happening before the draft treaty is signed or its implementation has begun. Under the circumstances and in order that Israel may not be given an opportunity to exploit this text, the Egyptian negotiator has demanded the introduction of amendments to this article to avoid any ambiguities and prevent any playing with words, and so that Egypt's Arab commitment may remain a very clear fateful commitment.

Regarding Israel's attempts to hint that Egypt will sign a separate peace, Dr Butrus Ghali says: From the beginning Egypt has stressed at Camp David and in the preamble to the proposed Egyptian-Israeli draft agreement that these provisions "are not a basis for peace between Egypt and Israel alone but also between Israel and its Arab neighbors."

He adds: This paragraph has prompted the Israeli Cabinet to debate it at length because the Egyptian agreement includes three important principles: total withdrawal from all Egyptian territory, restoration of Egypt's sovereignty over all its territories and the removal of the settlements. He also says that in any peace plan between it and Israel, each Arab state will adhere to these principles--the demand for withdrawal, removal of the settlements and the restoration of full sovereignty.

In his interview, Dr Butrus Ghali further says: Security Council Resolution 242 is the basis of the two Camp David agreements. It is also the basis of the Egyptian-Israeli draft treaty. All these principles must be implemented in all the territories which were occupied in 1967. He explains that these principles can be implemented by insisting on adherence to the timetable in the exchanged letters, which would be tantamount to a treaty supplementing the Egyptian-Israeli agreement and would be binding on all parties.

Asked if Egypt could contain the Arab-Israeli conflict despite the opposition of some other Arab sides, Dr Butrus Ghali says: Egypt can do this. No Arab side can fight Israel without Egypt's participation. The Arabs have agreed on this. At the same time, the Arabs cannot establish peace with Israel without the approval of the Palestinians. Egypt is seeking this approval.

Dr Butrus Ghali then says: The rules and provisions agreed upon at Camp David and the timetable which we seek will provide the Palestinian people with the necessary framework for conducting a fruitful dialog that would lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state in the near future, if not very soon.

In conclusion, Dr Ghali says: Concerning the method of rejection, the Arab world has passed through the stage of military confrontation over a period of 30 years. The stage of diplomatic and cultural confrontation began with President as-Sadat's historic trip to Jerusalem. Many of the rejectionist states lack the ability, necessary equipment or assets which would enable them to follow the cultural method in order to contain the conflict. Therefore, rejection is the only method available to them.

AS-SADAT ADDRESSES DELEGATION FROM SINAI

NC031635Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 3 Dec 78 NC

[Speech by President Anwar as-Sadat at 3 December meeting with a delegation of the people of Sinai--recorded]

[Text] My sons and daughters, the people of beloved Sinai: It is a happy moment to meet with you today and to listen to you while we are on the threshold of folding those dark pages with a new dawn, God willing, that will restore Sinai to its people and homeland, to its beloved people in the Nile Valley.

It is my happiest moment to meet with you today. However, I do not want to say what I want to say until I meet with you, God willing, in the heart of Sinai. [applause]

At this meeting I want to ask you to convey my love and happiness and the love and happiness of all Egypt to every man and every woman and to every young man and every young woman living in Sinai. [applause]

Soon we will have a rendezvous there, God willing, on the land of Sinai, the holy land which will never be isolated again from its valley and from its beloved. [applause]

Tell them that all programs are being prepared now so that reconstruction will start immediately following the conclusion of the first stage of the Israeli withdrawal. [applause] The first stage of withdrawal will cover over four-fifths of Sinai. As I told you, programs are now being prepared for this.

Your link through Al-Qantarah tunnel will be finished before the first stage of withdrawal ends, God willing. As early as possible, God willing, we will also begin work on the second tunnel between Al-Qantarah al-Gharbiyah and Al-Qantarah ash-Sharqiyah, so that Sinai will be strongly linked with its kin and people in the Nile Valley.

As I told you, I have many things which I want to say. However, I thank God, who has decreed that this darkness should disappear, that this suffering should end and that you should return to Sinai, the land of the holy religions, so that you can really make it a model for reconstruction, greenery and prosperity, a model for what the people's will can achieve. The people's will is derived from God's will.

You have decided and God Almighty has decided that your land should be liberated. This liberation will mark the new birth of this holy land which is beloved to all our hearts, not only in the Nile Valley but also to 700 million Moslems all over the world and to some 1 billion Christians who cherish this holy land--your land and our land in Sinai. [applause]

God willing, and along with liberation, life will return to Sinai. Along with liberation, greenness will return to Sinai. Along with liberation, reconstruction will return to Sinai. Love will return. The people, who have rejected and who continue to reject all kinds of occupation, coercion or tyranny, will return. The people will return to build their life through love and brotherhood so that Sinai will be the holy land for the hundreds of millions in your land here and among your people, your Arab nation, and the Christian nation. Love will return to the land of Sinai.

God willing, I promise you that we will meet there as I have told you, in the very heart of Sinai, when the first phase is completed. Then we will all hold a celebration unknown to the various generations. [applause] This celebration, God willing, will be a beacon for the generations which will follow us.

God willing, we will also celebrate in the land of Palestine. [applause] We will celebrate the restoration of rights, we will celebrate in order to tell our Palestinian brothers, the whole Arab nation and all the world around us that Egypt is noble with itself, that Egypt is noble in its pledges, that Egypt is noble in its brotherhood, that Egypt is noble in meeting its obligations and that Egypt rejects all vituperations so that it can build through love and through willpower the Arab future for a better life for every Arab woman, for every Arab son, and for every Arab human being.

We will celebrate and tell the world and our Arab nation: We have crossed the canal, we have restored the Arab nation's dignity after it had been lost, [applause] we have crossed over into Sinai and the whole Arab nation crossed over with us. We are those who cross, who make achievements, and who restore dignity. We do no favors to anybody. However, the time has come for everyone to realize his real size and place. [applause]

My sons and daughters, convey to our kinfolk in Sinai all love and appreciation until I meet you, God willing, with the process of liberation and construction. May God grant you success. Peace be with you.

AL-AHRAM COMMENTS ON SOVIET MIDDLE EAST POLICY

NC030808Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 3 Dec 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] Cairo, 3 December--AL-AHRAM comments today on the Soviet Union's Middle East policy. It says that this policy is based on offering sham support to the Arabs and real support to Israel.

The paper adds: At a time when Moscow has become the Mecca of the rejectionist Arabs who condemn the peace initiative that has shaken the world's conscience and won the support of all peoples, and at a time when Moscow is trying to appear as the only friend of the Arabs and the greatest enemy of Israel, the visit of the Israeli parliamentary delegation to Moscow last week revealed the true Soviet position.

AL-AHRAM refers to the statements made by the Israeli parliamentarians after their return from Moscow on Friday. They said, among other things, that the iceberg in the relations between Moscow and Tel Aviv has begun to thaw. They also said that the Soviet officials assured them that Moscow is interested in limiting the arms race in the Middle East. The paper wonders what Soviet support could do for the rejectionist states and whether the so-called steadfastness and confrontation is a plan to waste time or even dissipate the entire issue.

AL-AHRAM continues: Under the pretext of limiting the arms race, the Soviet Union, which controls the faucets of the flow of arms to the Middle East states, is very anxious, as the Israeli parliamentarians affirm, that these faucets not be opened so wide that these states are able to achieve military supremacy.

In conclusion, AL-AHRAM says: The attitude of the Soviet Union is not new. It was the first state to recognize Israel. Its policy with Egypt is evidence that its support for the Arabs is a sham support. The paper adds: No matter what masks the Kremlin leaders wear, their policy will remain exposed to anyone with eyes who can see things as they really are.

PRC'S CHI PENG-FEI CONCLUDES TALKS WITH OFFICIALS

JN021249Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Dec 78 JN

[Text] The final round of talks was held this morning at the National Council building between Iraqi and PRC officials. The Iraqi side was headed by Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf and included Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Mindhir 'Uraym and Wisam az-Zahawi, Ambassador and chairman of the First International Department in the Foreign Ministry. The PRC side was headed by Chi Peng-fei, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the PRC National People's Congress, and included Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs Sung Chih-kuang; (Sung Di-pong), deputy director of the Protocol Department at the West Asian and North African Affairs Department of the PRC Foreign Ministry; and the PRC ambassador in Baghdad, Yeh-Peng hou.

The talks dealt with means of developing existing relations of cooperation and friendship, and the situation in the Arab area. The two sides also exchanged views on a number of international issues of common concern.

SOVIET COMMERCIAL FLEET OFFICIAL CONCLUDES VISIT

JN021508Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1450 GMT 2 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 2 December--Nedyak, deputy minister of the Soviet Maritime Fleet Ministry, left Baghdad today following a 5-day visit to Iraq. Nedyak said that his visit was to attend the third session of the Iraqi-Soviet maritime committee, which ended its meetings today. He also said that he discussed the main venues of development and joint cooperation in sea commerce and in training Iraqi cadres to increase their involvement in the Iraqi maritime cadre.

IRAQ, TURKEY SIGN MINUTES ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION

JN031838Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1758 GMT 3 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 3 December--Iraq and Turkey signed here this evening joint minutes for economic and trade cooperation. The minutes, which were signed for Iraq by 'Adnan Husayn, Revolution Command Council member and planning minister, and for the Turkish side by Hikmet Cetin, Turkish minister of state for economic affairs, provides for the exchange of experts and technicians.

It also provides for developing bilateral economic and trade cooperation and contribution to development plans to benefit the prosperity and progress of the peoples of the two countries.

'Adnan Husayn and Hikmet Cetin exchanged speeches after the signing of the minutes in which they stressed determination to implement the content of the minutes in the interests of the two peoples and neighboring countries.

TURKEY'S ECEVIT LEAVES BAGHDAD FOLLOWING 2-DAY VISIT

JN031925Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 3 December--Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad this evening following a 2-day official visit to Iraq at the invitation of Revolution Command Council [RCC] Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn.

Ecevit was accorded an official sendoff at Al-Muthanna Airport, headed by Saddam Husayn, RCC members, ministers, the chief of staff of the armed forces, the police director general, several heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions in Baghdad and the Turkish Embassy staff in Baghdad.

PDRY LABOR MINISTER LEAVES FOLLOWING CONFERENCE

JN030651Y Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 2 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Nasir Nasir 'Ali, PDRY minister of labor and civil service, left Baghdad this evening after participating in the meetings of the fifth conference of the Arab labor and social affairs ministers concluded in Baghdad last week.

He was seen off at the airport by Bakr Mahmud Rasul, Iraqi minister of labor and social affairs.

OAPEC SECRETARY GENERAL LEAVES FOLLOWING VISIT

JN040758Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 4 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 4 December--OAPEC Secretary General 'Ali 'Atiqah this morning left Baghdad at the end of a 2-day visit to Iraq.

'Atiqah said that his visit was fruitful and its results were positive, particularly as regards the designation of the provisional headquarters of the Arab oil training center, which, it is hoped, will open next year in Baghdad.

INA REPORTS ON IRAQ-CZECHOSLOVAK COOPERATION TALKS

JN012008Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1925 GMT 1 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 1 December--Mr Mahdi Muhsin 'Awdah, Trade Ministry under secretary, and the accompanying delegation returned to Baghdad this evening after attending the meetings of the first session of the joint Iraqi-Czechoslovak committee held in Prague from 18 to 24 November. In a press statement, Mr Mahdi Muhsin 'Awdah said that the committee, in which the Iraqi side was headed by Mr Muhammad 'Ayish, Revolution Command Council member and minister of industry and mineral wealth, took a number of decisions to promote bilateral relations in industry, trade, agriculture, technology and petrochemical industries.

Mr 'Awdah said that he headed the Iraqi side in the meetings of the third session of the cooperation committee formed by Iraq and the Council for Economic Solidarity of the Organization of Socialist Countries held in Warsaw from 21 to 30 November. During these meetings the two sides signed the joint minutes which included the fields of cooperation between Iraq and the council. Mr 'Awdah said that a plan of action for next year on cooperation in implementing projects relating to petrochemicals and agriculture, in exchanging experts and specialists and in training Iraqi cadres was agreed.

The fourth session of the committee meetings will be held in Baghdad in November 1979.

LEBANESE BA'TH PARTY MEMBER ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN032100Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2009 GMT 3 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 3 December--Radi Farahat, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Lebanon, arrived tonight on a visit of several days to Iraq.

In a statement Farahat praised Iraq's role in unifying the stands of the Arab nation to confront its Zionist and imperialist enemies and to foil the conspiratorial plots represented in the traitorous Camp David agreements and the Blair House talks.

Farahat said that the revolutionary steps made by the political leadership of the Ba'th Party and revolution in Iraq is a practical answer to all plots and manifestations of deterioration the Arab situation is living through. He further said that the Joint National Action Charter is the first practical answer to these plots aimed against our legitimate ambitions. He said that Iraq's initiative has laid down the sound revolutionary foundations to save the Arab situation from the state of weakness and to thwart the liquidationist plan against the Palestine issue and the scheme aimed at partitioning Lebanon and to continue liberation.

LEBANESE DEPUTY MANSUR ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN032101Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2030 GMT 3 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 3 December--Albert Mansur, member of the Executive Committee of the Central and Political Council of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and member of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, arrived in Baghdad today on a visit of several days to Iraq.

In a statement upon arrival, Mansur said that he is visiting Iraq to hold talks with the command of the party and revolution in Iraq on the current situation in the Lebanese and Arab arenas. The visit also comes to consult with Ba'th Party comrades on ways to confront As-Sadat's capitulationist and defeatist plot, he added.

He pointed out that the Joint National Charter between Iraq and Syria represents an opening for new horizons for national action in Lebanon. This, Mansur added, would thwart the imperialist-Zionist designs in Lebanon aimed at obliterating and partitioning Lebanon.

SYRIAN OFFICIAL YUSUF AL-AS'AD ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN040817Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 4 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 4 December--Yusuf al-As'ad, member of the political leadership of the Syrian Arab Republic, arrived this morning for a visit to Iraq that will last several days.

Al-As'ad said that his talks will deal with drafting a program and work formulas for coordination among the popular and vocational organizations within the framework of the Joint National Action Charter, which is regarded as a great pan-Arab achievement and a step on a firm unionist road between Iraq and Syria.

Al-As'ad added that his visit will contribute to the coordination work and the enhancement of the fraternal spirit between the masses in the two fraternal countries.

SENATOR BYRD ARRIVES IN AMMAN FOR 2-DAY VISIT

JN031535Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1525 GMT 3 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 3 December--Senator Robert Byrd, Senate Democratic majority leader, arrived in Amman this afternoon on a 2-day visit to Jordan. While in Jordan, Senator Byrd will hold talks with high-ranking Jordanian officials on latest Middle East developments.

Meets With King Husayn

JN031831Y Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Dec 78 JN

[Text] This evening at the Royal Hashemite Court, His Majesty King Husayn received Senator Robert Byrd, personal envoy of U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Senate Democratic majority leader, and the accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, His Majesty King Husayn reviewed the current situation in the area and developments that have taken place during the past 2 years, including Arab efforts to open the road to a just settlement. His majesty also explained the obstacles facing these efforts due to Israeli designs and intransigence.

His majesty pointed out to the U.S. senator and the accompanying delegation Jordan's position on the outcome of the Camp David conference. His majesty stressed the need for a clear road vis-a-vis a just settlement based on complete Israeli withdrawal, insuring the national and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the restoration of Arab Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty.

His majesty reiterated that Jordan does not consider the Camp David agreement a sound basis for a just peace; it believes in a just settlement based on the sound principles of durable and just peace. His majesty explained the resolutions of the Baghdad summit conference and Arab inclinations for the future. His majesty emphasized Jordan's concept of positive Arab solidarity and an overall just solution.

Senator Byrd pointed out the U.S. stand toward current developments, President Carter's views and his assessment of the current situation, President Carter's conviction of the need to achieve an overall solution and his future concepts. The meeting was attended by Ash-Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the royal court; 'Amir Khammash, minister of court; Prince Ra'd Ibn Zayd, chief chamberlain; and Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs.

President Jimmy Carter's personal envoy arrived in Amman today on a 2-day visit, during which he will hold talks with high-ranking officials on the Middle East latest developments.

Senator Byrd was received at Amman airport by the secretary general of the Royal Hashemite Court, the acting chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, the U.S. ambassador in Amman and embassy staff.

Sharaf Hosts Dinner

JN040625Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 4 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Chief of the Royal Hashemite Court 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf has declared that the resolutions of the Arab summit conference in Baghdad have restored Arab solidarity and the proper course.

In the dinner banquet he hosted yesterday evening in honor of Senator Robert Byrd, Democratic majority leader at the U.S. Senate, Sharaf said that Baghdad summit resolutions have confirmed Jordan's trend, based on just peace founded on healthy principles that are indispensable for building a genuine peace capable of making future generations live with it.

Sharaf added that the bases of the just settlement that Jordan upholds and that have always been declared by His Majesty King Husayn are full Israeli withdrawal and the guarantee of full rights of the Palestinian people, with whom we share common hopes, pains and the joint march. These rights include the right to free self-determination.

Sharaf said that Jordan announced clearly in its official statements its stand toward the Camp David results and the line that they represent. Meanwhile, Jordan has declared that it upholds just peace and the attitude of not closing the door to a just settlement. This is owing to Jordan's adherence to its pan-Arab identity and its feeling that Jordan shares a common destiny and future with the Arab nation.

In his reply, Senator Robert Byrd said that he is visiting Jordan as an envoy of U.S. President Carter, carrying the mission of peace and affirming Jordan's basic role in the process and the making of peace. He said President Carter is wholly committed to the comprehensive settlement issue. He added that in his opinion the coming phase will witness the signing of a peace agreement between Egypt and Israel and that President Carter is determined that this should be followed by agreements achieving a comprehensive settlement on all fronts.

Senator Byrd said that in his various meetings, particularly in the West Bank, he emphasized the need for everyone to participate in making the future and a comprehensive settlement.

Senator Byrd affirmed his admiration and that of the U.S. President and people for His Majesty King Husayn. He said his majesty has always been a symbol of moderation and wisdom, as well as of the love of the people and their interest.

Senator Byrd said that his country respects Jordan's role and its impact on the area and on the Arab world. He said he hopes that cooperation will continue for the sake of peace in the area.

DELEGATION OF PENTAGON OFFICERS VISITS FRONTLINES

JN041027Y Amman JNA in Arabic 0935 GMT 4 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 4 December--A delegation of high-ranking Pentagon officers yesterday visited the frontlines and heard a briefing from the division commander in which he spoke about the main duties and tasks of units stationed in the area. The guest delegation also visited tourist and antiquity sites in the area.

ARMED FORCES COMMANDER RECEIVES LIBYAN DELEGATION

JN031055Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 3 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 3 December--This morning, Staff Lt Gen ash-Sharif Zayd Ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, received a Libyan military delegation headed by Lt Col al-Hadi Tahir. During the meeting, a discussion was held on bilateral military cooperation. The meeting was attended by the chief of staff of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

SUPPLY MINISTER RETURNS FROM YUGOSLAVIA, MAKES STATEMENT

JN041029Y Amman JNA in Arabic 0930 GMT 4 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 4 December--Supply Minister Marwan al-Qasim and the accompanying delegation returned to Amman last night at the end of a visit to Yugoslavia that lasted several days. Al-Qasim said that during the visit contracts were concluded to purchase clothes and essential foodstuffs, which will be offered in the markets next season. He also said that he discussed the possibility of bilateral cooperation with Yugoslav officials, particularly regarding agriculture in the Jordan Valley.

JORDANIAN-PLO DIALOG ASSESSED AS IMPORTANT, CONSTRUCTIVE

PLO Adviser's Comment

JN012012Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1908 GMT 1 Dec 78 JN

[Text] At a seminar held yesterday at the American University of Beirut, Khalid al-Hasan, political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, stressed the importance of the dialog between Jordan and the PLO and the significance this dialog implies concerning Jordan's participation in certain Palestinian affairs. The PLO Executive Committee yesterday discussed the results of the Palestinian delegation's visit to Jordan. Yasir 'Arafat, who presided over the meeting, expressed his satisfaction with the joint statement issued on the talks and the Jordanian rejection of the Camp David agreements and self-rule for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and Jordan's readiness to coordinate with the PLO in various spheres.

Jordanian Minister's View

TA031526Y Paris AFP in English 1343 GMT 3 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Beirut, 3 Dec, AFP--Jordan and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) have agreed on a framework of mutual cooperation aimed at helping Palestinians living in the Israeli occupied territories, Jordanian Foreign Minister Hasan Ibrahim told the Beirut daily Monday morning in an interview to appear tomorrow. Commenting on talks in Amman from Nov 25 to 28, he added that while no decision had been taken on a visit by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat to Amman, such a visit was possible. The talks had been "constructive and realistic," and contacts were to be maintained and further meetings might be held. Cooperation would also be aimed at "political and international action."

He said the two sides reached agreement on a "procedure to find a solution to the problem" posed by the Camp David Middle East agreement. Asked whether Jordan's talks with the PLO were held in perspective of peace or war with Israel, he replied that the general atmosphere was more of a peaceful one.

JORDAN'S DELEGATION WITHDRAWS FROM CAIRO MEDICAL CONFERENCE

JN040655Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 4 Dec 78 pp 1, 12 JN

[Text] Amman--The Jordanian delegation has withdrawn from a medical conference held in Cairo because of the participation of an Israeli delegation in the conference, which began Saturday at the invitation of the 'Ayn Shams University. The Saudi delegation also withdrew from the conference for the same reason.

Syria did not participate in the conference and no invitation was sent to any Iraqi physician. The Jordanian delegation returned to Amman yesterday. It includes Zayd al-Kilani, Suhayl Khalaf, Yusuf Disi and Su'ad Dusuqi, who are gynecologists and obstetricians.

PROTOCOLS, BLAIR HOUSE TALKS INTENDED 'TO DISMEMBER ARAB WORLD'

JN030755Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Dec 78 pp 1, 12 JN

[Editorial: "The Secret Protocols"]

[Excerpts] At no time have the Camp David agreements really aimed at achieving peace, even unjust and noncomprehensive peace, in the area. Proof of this is the secret protocols signed by the three partners: Carter, As-Sadat and Begin.

It is definite that the Camp David summit has aimed at establishing a tripartite U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli alliance to suppress any Arab move against whatever the three partners may agreed upon concerning the Arab world, from the ocean to the gulf. The Blair House negotiations, which at times seem feeble and disjointed, are no more than a fiendish means to dismember the Arab world and to plant time bombs within Arab ranks, which have achieved a minimum level of agreement during the ninth Arab summit in Baghdad.

Therefore, the conclusion of a separate treaty between Egypt and Israel is no longer serious in itself. What is serious is the tripartite alliance's strategy in the way it views the map of the Arab world and the solutions that would be carried out after the three Camp David partners have put their signatures on the ill-omened treaty.

ISRAEL RENDERS LINKAGE, TIMETABLE ISSUES 'NULL, VOID'

JN032030Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Quoting Israeli sources, the Washington POST reports that the Begin government is currently preparing an intransigent draft for the self-rule plan aimed at tightening its grip over the West Bank and Gaza through giving Israel special rights to settlement; to retain state land, which constitutes one sixth of the occupied West Bank; to control underground water resources and to give Israeli settlements autonomous rule within the self-rule for the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Israel, to which the Camp David agreements gave wide freedom to maneuver and adopt intransigent stands, is acting to make the substance of these agreements, which have already been rejected at the Arab and Palestinian levels, null and void in order to establish a separate solution in the Middle East. The Begin government's specifications for self-rule mean clear Israeli participation in this rule through the Jewish settlements, as well as seizure of state land in the occupied West Bank.

Israel's concept of the Camp David agreements constitutes the stumbling block that impedes negotiations at Blair House. This concept also constitutes a touchstone of the real U.S. and Egyptian intentions toward the future of the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip, particularly since the comprehensive framework agreement, with its vague aims and postponement of discussion of the basic issues, provided Israel with the chance to present its views and act on this basis in the absence of opposition from the U.S. and Egyptian capitals. Thus, vagueness of the Camp David agreements and the three partners' decision to defer in decisively settling the basic issue--the Palestine question--have enabled Israel to act unilaterally in determining the future of the Palestine question.

Through the Israeli plan for the nature of self-rule, the Begin government is trying to create peripheral problems exerting pressure on the Egyptian negotiator, so that if Israel agrees to linkage and a timetable, Egypt will find itself before a sole interpretation of the self-rule, that is, the Israeli interpretation. This interpretation is based on complete Israeli sovereignty over large areas of occupied Palestinian territory and on threatening citizens in the occupied Arab cities with seizing underground water resources in the West Bank.

Thus, the issues of linkage and a timetable have been rendered void and null by Israel so that if it is forced by U.S. pressure to agree to them, Israel will agree to its own plan for self-rule and according to its own concept of the future of the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In addition to the fact that it sheds strong light on Israel's expansionist ambitions in the occupied Arab land, the new Israeli plan confirms the soundness of the unified Arab stand adopted at the ninth summit in Baghdad. This stand rejects the Camp David resolutions. Thus, overcoming the issues of linkage and a timetable at the Blair House negotiations does not mean paving the way for a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East as much as it means making another stop toward facing the main problems, which were ignored in the Camp David agreements. Foremost of these are occupied Arab Jerusalem, Israeli withdrawal and settlement and national self-determination for the Palestinian Arab people.

As Israel is asking Egypt to give up its Arab reality in return for a separate reconciliation [sulh] treaty as a price for its agreement to this treaty, it is very difficult to imagine the price Israel will ask from the Arabs and the United States in return for making concessions concerning issues whose discussions have been deferred until after 5 years of the proposed transitional period. If Israel is presenting such views for the future of the Palestine question even before 3 months have passed since the signing of the Camp David agreements, 5 years of waiting will lead to creating a Jewish fait accompli in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip that will render any new discussion for solving the pending and basic issues of the Palestine question vain and futile. Israel insists on ignoring these issues and obliterating Arab rights in them and ignoring the fact that they are the essence of the Middle East conflict.

ALLIANCE ASPECT OF SINAI ACCORD 'GUARANTEES EGYPT'S SILENCE'

JN011842Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Dec 78 JN

[Nasuh al-Majali commentary: "The Reality Between Linkage and Separation in the Sinai Agreement"]

[Text] What is the reality of the current dialog between Egypt on one hand and Washington and Tel Aviv on the other concerning the issue of linkage and certain details in the Sinai agreement? Why did Egypt think to raise these issues after the Baghdad summit conference and just a few weeks before signing the agreement on Sinai?

The texts of the agreements indicate that Egypt could not achieve any kind of linkage between the two agreements during the Camp David talks, or rather, Egypt did not want to raise this question for reasons connected with its concern over producing a Sinai agreement, with all its minor details. More important than this is the fact that Egypt did not seek to obtain even a nominal pledge from the United States similar to other nominal pledges outlined in the messages exchanged between President Carter and Egypt and Israel; therefore, the issue of linkage remained outside the framework of provisions in the agreements. Also, this question remained outside the reassuring texts outlined in President Carter's message concerning the U.S. stand toward the issues, on which no clear solution has been reached.

Why did Egypt raise the question of linkage after the Baghdad summit conference? This is a topical question, behind which there is a new attempt to deceive Arab public opinion and to sow division among the Arab countries concerning whether or not Egypt made a unilateral decision, particularly since this question has something to do with secret decisions that call for applying Arab sanctions and a boycott against Egypt if it takes unilateral action.

What does Egypt demand? Egyptian Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Usamah al-Baz summed up Egyptian demands by saying that Egypt is demanding that negotiations on self-rule in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip begin within 1 month after the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty. Egypt is also demanding that elections to choose bodies for local rule in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip begin within 6 months and that Israel seek to withdraw and concentrate its forces in new positions in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip within 9 months; and that, at the same time, the process of transferring civil rule from military to local rule begin and that this process proceed parallel to Israeli withdrawal to Al-'Arish-Ra's Muhammad line in Sinai and that the abolition of military rule and transfer of authorities to local administration coincide with Israeli withdrawal from Sinai.

The linkage process, as Egypt discusses it with Israel, is an issue that has to do with Egypt's suspicion of Israel's intentions to apply the second agreement on self-rule, particularly since Israel views the Palestinian and Arab stands, which reject self-rule, as sufficient justification for freezing or suspending the second agreement after committing Egypt to an agreement that renders Egypt's relations with Israel something very close to an alliance. This is because such an agreement will annul any Egyptian commitments toward the Arab nation and give preference to relations with Israel.

The most dangerous part of the Sinai agreement is that initially it removes Egypt from the arena of Arab-Israeli conflict and thus burns Egypt's bridges with its Arab struggle and abolishes its role in the continuous conflict around it. Further, this agreement does not give Egypt sufficient guarantee that Israel will find a solution to the Palestine question and does not give Egypt room to retract should the second agreement on self-rule not be applied. This agreement leaves Egypt without role or opinion in the continuous conflict over the Palestine question between Israel and the other Arab countries.

The most dangerous thing in the current form of the Sinai agreement is that it is very like an alliance that guarantees Egypt's silence, giving Israel a free hand in the Arab east. It is an alliance that gives Israel freedom to do as it pleases on the Palestine question and deprives Egypt of following up its Arab role and responsibilities. This is interpreted by Israel's refusal to find even a nominal role for Egypt in the issue of the occupied Palestinian territory, both in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Stalling in signing the agreement, apart from being an attempt to deceive Arab public opinion concerning Egypt's insistence on a comprehensive solution, is an attempt to blackmail the price of the agreement from the United States. Egypt has ambitions for a plan like the Marshal Plan to boost its economy. Egypt, so far, has only received bright promises. Egypt is seeking a material alternative to the Arab support, which is threatened by the signing of the agreement.

On the issue of linkage, over which discussions were decisively settled by the Israeli Cabinet resolution closing the door to negotiations on this question, Egypt has gone back to satisfying itself with a U.S. compromise in the form of a U.S. message, including a pledge guaranteeing that Israel will take measures to apply self-rule. Thus, the Sinai agreement becomes ready for signing, in the form Israel wanted, and containing provisions that not only limit Egypt's sovereignty over Sinai after it is returned but also limits Egypt's freedom to make decisions within its Arab framework and affiliation and commitments.

In Amman, the Arab world has witnessed another development closely connected with what is taking place between Egypt and Israel, namely the resumption of the Palestinian-Jordanian dialog on the common ground of a unified stand toward the Palestinian rights question and a unified attitude rejecting the Camp David agreements and the self-rule as outlined in these agreements. For the first time, a joint Palestinian-Jordanian statement has been issued stressing Jordanian-Palestinian rejection of self-rule. This has great significance and effects concerning the course of events in the occupied land, because Jordan and the PLO constitute the two main parties that really affect the trends of public opinion. Added to this is the special significance of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian statement issued in Amman, reaffirming that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, particularly after the Camp David agreements ignored the PLO's role and called again for a role for the inhabitants of the occupied land, within the framework of the Jordanian role and the framework of self-rule, which Jordan rejected, together with any commitments resulting from it.

Now there is nothing to prevent the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli agreement. There is nothing that guarantees that Israel will bother about the Palestine question, particularly since Arab rejection of the comprehensive framework agreement and Palestinian rejection of self-rule will be used as a pretext for Israel's adherence to its current stand.

Egypt has wagered its future on its new commitments. This is the significant point of the current stage and the conclusion of the strategy Israel has pursued since its occupation in 1967.

AD-DUSTUR CALLS FOR CLEAR DEFINITION OF AUTONOMY

JN031040Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Dec 78 pp 1, 15 JN

[Editorial: "Israeli Specifications for Autonomy"]

[Text] Reports coming from occupied Jerusalem stated that Senator Byrd has urged West Bank notables, with whom he met yesterday, to accept the administrative autonomy plan for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. He assured them that if the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza participate in the negotiations, they will guarantee themselves the support of President Carter, the Congress and the American people.

It is noteworthy that, while President Carter's envoy was making this effort, the Israeli paper Jerusalem POST reported that a plan has been prepared for settling 27,000 Jewish families in the West Bank during the next 5 years. Of these, 8,000 families will be settled next year as a preliminary step, and 46 new settlements will be established to fulfill the plan's needs.

Also while the U.S. senator was trying to convince West Bank notables of the autonomy plan, Israeli sources leaked reports to the Washington POST that the Israeli Government is currently preparing a rigid draft of that plan, which provides for Israel's right to settlements in the West Bank, the retention of a quarter of a million feddans of state land in the West Bank, in addition to control of the ground water sources there, and the guarantee of autonomy for Israeli settlements within the framework of the proposed autonomy plan.

This was the Israeli response to Senator Byrd's efforts. The least that can be said about this response is that it casts doubts on the positive points the U.S. senator was citing to convince the West Bank notables to accept the autonomy plan. Then what is the advantage of such a plan, which calls for settlements and control of the land and water in the West Bank?

Obviously this Israeli action is not the first of its kind. It has been preceded by similar actions during Mr Saunders' visit to the area. In such an atmosphere, would it not seem natural for one to wonder about the truth of the autonomy the Palestinians are asked to accept and about the worthiness of the negotiations in which the people of the West Bank and the Gaza sector are asked to participate? Through Israeli and U.S. media, Israel has presented the detailed specifications of a plan. According to these specifications, there lies a great gap between that plan and self-rule in its simplest form. The plan is no more than a document in which the Israelis are asking the Palestinians to surrender their sovereignty and vast areas of the West Bank, not to mention the water there.

As long as this is the Israeli understanding of the self-rule plan, what use can be obtained from Palestinian participation in negotiations that are preceded by their consent to that plan? Mr Saunders' understanding of autonomy through the discussions he held differed greatly from the Israeli understanding. Perhaps the same applies to Senator Byrd's understanding of that plan. Thus, Washington would do well if it began by first establishing one understanding for the autonomy plan, to which Israel would be openly committed. Then the Palestinians would have the opportunity to study it and to voice their opinion. Apart from that, no one can blame their majority for rejecting that plan, particularly in light of the Israeli specifications pertaining to it.

AD-DUSTUR: ARABS MUST NOW PREPARE FOR POST-TREATY STAGE

JN041002Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Dec 78 pp 1, 15 JN

[Editorial: "What Then?"]

[Text] The signing of a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel seems to be a matter of time. Despite the differences between the two parties over one or two articles in the treaty plan which Washington has prepared, it seems that attractions to signing the treaty are much stronger than the possibilities of retraction. Since the two parties have travelled two thirds or more of a long road with great effort, they will not squander all these efforts because of one or two sentences.

Thus, the Arab countries that have opposed and are still opposing President as-Sadat's moves must not ask themselves what they can do to prevent the signing of the treaty, but what they must do after the signing, since conclusion of reconciliation [sulh] between Egypt and Israel is a fait accompli or is on the verge of becoming so. The differences between the two parties at Blair House are now limited to two points: A linkage and the issue of timetables related to it; and the sixth provision in the treaty plan, which gives it "a force of veto" to Egypt's agreements with the Arab countries. We believe that the U.S. "mediator," that has proven its ability in justifying compromises in the negotiations process, will succeed in finding a formula that will achieve the minimum Egyptian demands without committing Israel to much.

He who follows the tug-of-war process between Cairo and Tel Aviv will notice that the two parties are vacillating in their stands between intransigence and flexibility, without reaching the point of threatening to break the negotiations, even in the cases when it seemed that the dialog reached a deadlock. The reason for this, as we have said, is the concern of the two parties, each for its own reasons, about achieving reconciliation and establishing a separate peace. The two parties are also concerned about convincing their peoples' supporters and rejectionists that they tried their utmost to obtain the best possible conditions, and that there is also the U.S. "mediator" clutching the reins of the situation.

What remains is the front that is being prepared for the next step, that is, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. [paragraph continues]

It seems that Washington and Cairo are concerned about making an important achievement on this front, through which Washington would satisfy the moderate Arab countries that accused it of relinquishing the Palestinian people's rights, and Cairo would convince-- if it can--the same countries that it did not sign a separate reconciliation with Israel. Since the chances of success for Washington and Cairo to achieve a solution that the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will accept are slim, owing to the Palestinian rejection on one hand and Israeli ambitions on the other, the challenge in itself encourages a try. Also, Egypt cannot bear the coldness of isolation for long, and must borrow a cover from the Palestinian people. Thus, this winter will witness commotions and roars in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Their people will face a very difficult ordeal between the attraction of a self-rule that is less than what is required and the fait accompli of the difficult occupation that they can neither bear nor ignore. The wheel that began turning with As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem is still turning. Despite manifestations of its stopping and people throwing stones at it, the wheel is still turning. Unless the Baghdad summit countries go beyond the stage of verbal statements to one of serious action, submit practical alternatives and take action on the international level to foil what is taking place, then what is taking place will continue to its planned end and nothing will prevent it.

AL-AKHBAR ASSAILS UN TREATMENT OF PALESTINIANS

JN011056Y Amman AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 1 Dec 78 pp 1, 8 JN

[Editorial: "The United Nations and Solidarity with the Palestinian People"]

[Excerpts] It may be useful for the United Nations to organize a day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, to express its support for the Palestinian people's right to regain their usurped national rights. In our opinion, however, this particular matter is one of the discrepancies of this strange era. It was the United Nations itself that encroached on the rights of the Palestinian people when it took the liberty of looking into the destiny of these people and their territories. The United Nations itself, as represented by the Security Council, gave itself the right to deal with the future of the Palestinian people and the destiny of their national soil behind their backs, without even listening to their viewpoint. This took place in 1948, when the Security Council, which is the UN executive organ, yielded to colonialist pressures that were able to force through the resolution on dividing Palestine between the people of Palestine--those with the legitimate right to all Palestinian territories--and a dispersed people thrown out by the international communities, who have no right whatsoever to the territories of Palestine. At that time, for instance, the United Nations granted Costa Rica--under open U.S. pressure--the right to help determine the destiny of the Palestinian territories and people without giving any such right to the Palestinian people, who have the sole legitimate right to the Palestinian territories. The United Nations thus behaved like Balfour, who promised what was not his to those who did not deserve it when he issued his famous declaration of giving a national homeland to the Jews in Palestine. It would be more proper for the United Nations to reconsider its previous and unjust resolutions regarding Palestine--both the people and the territory. It would be more proper for the United Nations to reconsider Israel's membership, because Israel was established unjustly and aggressively due to these resolutions, even those that grant it the right to exist at the expense of the Palestinian people and of their legitimate right to their homeland. It would be more proper for the United Nations to deal with the roots and basic causes of the Palestinian people's problem. Perhaps then it could make up for the great crime it has committed against the Palestinian people--a crime unprecedented in both ancient and modern history regarding aggression against the destinies of peoples.

PRESIDENT SARKIS RETURNS TO BEIRUT

NC011414Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Dec 78 NC

[Text] The plane carrying President Ilyas Sarkis and his delegation landed at Beirut International Airport a short while ago.

The president was welcomed by Speaker Kamil al-As'ad, ministers, deputies, the army commander, members of the diplomatic corps and senior officials. An official welcome was held for the president.

ARAB INDUSTRIAL CENTER DELEGATION ARRIVES IN BEIRUT

NC011808Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Dec 78 NC

[Text] A delegation of the Arab Industrial Development Center arrived in Beirut today. The delegation is composed of Engineer Dr Haydar at-Tarabishi, Dr Walid ash-Sharif and Engineer 'Abd al-Fattah Mar'ashi. The delegation was received by the director general of industry, Alfred Dibs, and the chairman of the technical department, 'Imad an-Nawwam.

Immediately upon the delegation's arrival, a working meeting was held in which the main points related to its work in Lebanon were outlined. It is worth noting that this delegation was formed as a result of the Arab summit conference in Baghdad--which recommended giving support for Lebanon and restoring the various production centers in the country.

The Arab League has entrusted the Arab Social and Economic Development Fund, the Arab Industrial Development Center and the Arab Labor Organization with the task of making a detailed study which will be submitted to the Arab finance ministers conference scheduled for next February.

Today's meeting dealt with the following points: 1) a fund for supporting Lebanese industry; 2) the industrial complexes and consolidation of industries; and 3) domestic and foreign marketing.

The delegation will continue its work with Mr Dibs and Mr an-Nawwam in order to draw up a program of contacts which the delegations will make with top-level officials out of its desire to implement the support program for Lebanon as soon as possible.

DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SPEAK OF NEW FRENCH INITIATIVE

NC031737Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Next week will be important, because President Sarkis will brief the Lebanese leaders on the results of his visit to France. The visit achieved its positive objectives, causing a friendly state such as France to throw its international and diplomatic weight, recognized by all the parties concerned with the Lebanese crisis at home and abroad, in support of Lebanon as it faces the plots of settlement and tries to free itself from the effects of the Middle East crisis on its internal situation.

Diplomatic sources speak of a new French initiative through which France will announce a new position toward the plans to settle the Palestinians in Lebanon--a position that will receive Arab and European support and make those who plan solutions to the conflict in the area reconsider their calculations aimed at achieving settlements at the expense of Lebanon and the Palestinian people.

CLASHES BETWEEN LEBANESE RIGHTISTS, JOINT FORCES REPORTED

JN011636Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Dec 78 JN

[Text] A heavy exchange of fire took place today between the rightist militias and the joint forces of the Lebanese nationalist movement and the Palestinian resistance in southern Lebanon. Reports from southern Lebanon say that the clashes, in which rockets and missiles were used, continued for 6 hours. The rightist shelling, supported by the Zionist forces, was directed at the town of An-Nabaatiyah and the surrounding areas.

Reports say that the rightist elements began their shelling early this morning. The joint forces were forced to answer the fire and strike at the positions of the militia forces in the town of Marj 'Uyun. The reports did not give the losses sustained by the two sides.

INA REPORTS ISRAELI CONSTRUCTION, SHELLING IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

JN021141Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 2 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 2 December--Travelers from the border area say that five bulldozers were seen today working on the Zionist project to build a port near the southernmost Lebanese town of An-Naqurah. The travelers also say that the Zionist forces are preventing people from approaching the project site, which is guarded by Zionist posts.

In the meantime the enemy has completed a new military road between the two border villages of 'Alma ash-Sha'b and Rumaysh. The INA correspondent in southern Lebanon says that the enemy has put up a road sign warning people not to use the new road.

The correspondent also says that the enemy is building a network of military roads in the border area within a zone 1-3 km wide. The enemy has asked the rightist militias to vacate certain areas now under direct Zionist occupation, such as the villages of Rumaysh, 'Alma ash-Sha'b and 'Ayn Ibil, where permanent Zionist posts have been established.

The correspondent also speaks of tension in the border area owing to daily shelling by the Zionist enemy and the rightists on the villages of the western and central sectors of Al-Biq'a'. The correspondent adds that the village of Tibnin in the central sector of Al-Biq'a' came under artillery fire last night. The villages of the western sector of Al-Biq'a' came under the fire the day before yesterday. Elements of Lebanese public security in the village of Tibnin, in which UN forces are also stationed, came under fire.

'SLIGHT FIRING' REPORTED IN BEIRUT 3 DECEMBER

NC030700Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 3 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Regarding the security situation last night, thunderstorms drowned the sound of shooting and it was no longer possible to differentiate between the sound of explosions and that of thunder. However, observers have affirmed that there was slight firing on all the traditional axes.

Meanwhile, a report indicates that an armed attack took place near B'ir Hasan quarter in the western area of Beirut yesterday evening. Fire was opened from a Syrian roadblock on the car of 2d Lt Hasan al-Amin, who was accompanied by a soldier. They were not hit but the lieutenant was detained, beaten up, insulted and suffered a head wound and a broken arm. He was handed over to the liaison committee and taken to the military hospital.

In the township of (?Dabbah) in Al-Kurah District some unidentified persons set off an explosive charge in a fuel station belonging to Salim Mutanis az-Zakhim. The station was destroyed and the fire spread to a neighboring store belonging to Najwah Nasr Matta.

AL-ASAD CABLES THANKS TO HUNGARIAN LEADERS FOLLOWING VISIT

JN021716Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Dec 78 JN

[Telegram from President Hafiz al-Asad to Hungarian leaders Janos Kadar and Pal Losonczi--presumably on 2 Dec]

[Text] At the end of our visit to the Hungarian People's Republic, I would like, on behalf of my wife and in my name and in behalf of the accompanying Syrian Arab delegation, to express great gratitude to you, to Mrs Kadar and Mrs Losonczi for the cordial reception and generous hospitality accorded us during our stay in your country.

I would like to express great satisfaction over the results achieved during this visit, particularly regarding the increased friendship and cooperation between our two countries. Our stay in Budapest was very happy. We are very deeply impressed by your people and their achievements.

I wish you continuous good health and happiness, continuous success, prosperity and progress for your friendly people.

IRAQI DELEGATION ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS TO DISCUSS UNITY

JN040920Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 0854 GMT 4 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 4 December--The delegation of fraternal Iraq to the Political, Cultural and Information Committee arrived in Damascus at 1000 today. The delegation consists of Revolution Command Council member Tariq 'Aziz, Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, and Information Minister Sa'd Qasim Hammudi.

They were met at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi, several high-ranking officials of the Syrian Foreign Ministry, Iraqi Ambassador in Damascus Walid Mahmud and the embassy staff.

The SANA correspondent reports that the Political, Cultural and Information Committee will hold its second meeting in Damascus and will discuss the joint working paper of the information committee.

The committee will continue to discuss the questions of coordination and integration between the two foreign ministries in the two fraternal countries and will follow up discussion of the ideas and questions with the aim of placing the two countries on the path of unity.

Joint Committee Meets

JN040923Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 0856 GMT 4 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 4 December--The Political, Cultural and Information Committee stemming from the supreme political commission of fraternal Syria and Iraq held its first session in Damascus this morning within the framework of its second meeting.

The Syrian Arab side to the session was headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, and the Iraqi side was headed by Revolution Command Council member Tariq 'Aziz.

The following attended the session from the Syrian Arab side: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi, Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad and Assistant Foreign Minister Nasir Qaddur. The following attended the session from the Iraqi side: Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, Information Minister Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, and Iraqi ambassador in Damascus Walid Mahmud.

Talks Continue

JN031834Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Dec 78 JN

[Text] In Damascus the Iraqi trade and industrial delegation resumed its meetings with officials and general industrial establishments and with economic and trade circles with the aim of strengthening economic, trade and industrial cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

The talks are also aimed at concluding contracts to import quantities of Syrian produce and industrial and trade commodities within the framework of the coordination and integration steps in the economic fields outlined in the Joint National Action Charter.

DAILY URGES IMPLEMENTATION OF IRAQI-SYRIAN CHARTER

JN020806Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Dec 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on the progression of unity between Syria and Iraq, the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH writes: Intensive activities are underway both between committees and between the appropriate authorities in the two fraternal countries of Syria and Iraq to implement the Joint National Action Charter, whose emergence constituted a significant crossroads on the path of promoting the relations of unity; strengthening the Arab confrontation, developing the course of steadfastness, and insuring the necessary prerequisites to achieve the aspirations and hopes of the Arab masses for building their unity and progress, liberating their land and regaining their rights.

ATH-THAWRAH adds: The national action charter came at a time when critical circumstances were facing the Arab struggle. This charter is meant to consolidate the free Arab will and the intrinsic power to confront the capitulationist plot and its parties. This charter came as part of the events that had developed in the Arab area when the front of steadfastness and confrontation, the Arab summit conference and the Arab Popular Conference formulated an integrated strategy for the Arab popular move along the road of seizing the initiative, reversing the equation in favor of the Arab struggle and upsetting the balance of the imperialist calculations.

ATH-THAWRAH says: The Arab masses pin hope confidently and optimistically on the practical steps that are being taken to implement the charter. They also pin hope on the forthcoming meeting of the Higher Political Committee, particularly since this committee will find before it the outcome of the subcommittees' work on the political, economic, information and cultural levels. Our masses believe that the charter constitutes a step in and a cornerstone of the serious struggle to achieve their national and pan-Arab objectives. These masses are well aware of the fact that the outcome of this meeting will favor the two countries' interests as well as the interests of the Arab masses in the great Arab homeland. This meeting will also constitute a basic factor in defining the future of the area and resolving the situation in favor of the Arab struggle and its fateful issues.

The Arab nation's principal concern is to translate its positions and principles into action and achievements that will fulfill the masses' aspirations and will express their will in building the future and achieving victory in the fateful battle against the Zionist enemy and imperialist forces supporting him.

FOREIGN MINISTER GRANTS INTERVIEW TO KUWAITI PAPER

JN031316Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Dec 78 JN

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that the Joint National Action Charter between fraternal Syria and Iraq is a framework for unified action between them. The minister said that the leaders of the two countries have achieved historic success in creating new factors and changing the existing formulas.

In a statement published today by the Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'Amm, the minister said that what has been achieved and what is going to be achieved between Syria and Iraq is a historic issue. He added that we must look with optimism and hope for unionist relationships through a unified state, because Arab unity constitutes the decisive answer and the natural base to confront the Zionist enemy and the forces hostile to the Arab nation.

The minister pointed out that the leaders of the two countries are determined to overcome all obstacles through exploiting natural circumstances in order to realize common goals. He made it clear that the work toward the aims of the charter is going very strong and that the work of the joint committees is progressing toward establishing a strong basis for advanced action between the two fraternal countries.

Mr Khaddam reiterated that the policy of the Egyptian ruler is aimed at surrender to the enemy. He pointed out that the producing of the separate peace agreement and the halting of the negotiations are aimed at absorbing the results of the Arab summit conference through the creation of a state of laxity and doubt about the feasibility of effective Arab solidarity, which appeared at the Baghdad summit conference. The foreign minister said that the As-Sadat policy of capitulation has been a great obstacle on the way to just peace. He said that the Egyptian ruler crossed the point of no return and left the Arab ranks after his evil visit to occupied Jerusalem.

Mr Khaddam said that there have been attempts to block the Arab states' contribution toward ending the explosive situation in Lebanon. He said that the side that is making the issues difficult is doing so on instructions from the Zionist enemy. He added that to close the Israeli gap of penetration we must implement the Bayt ad-Din resolutions to enable the Lebanese State to move from the state of worry to the state of stability and security. This can be achieved, the minister said, through what the Lebanese Government possesses of material force, such as the deterrent forces, and of moral force, such as the Lebanese people's wish for peace.

Mr Khaddam praised Jordan's clear stand on the Camp David agreements and said: Jordan is not with the policy of defeat and capitulation. Jordan is with peace. He also praised the Palestinian-Jordanian dialog.

Concluding his statement, the minister praised Syrian-Kuwaiti relations and said: The trust between President Hafiz al-Asad and His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad constitutes the main base for the continuous promotion and development of these relations.

ALGERIA

ALGIERS REPORTS ON PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE'S CONDITION

LDO22020Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Dec 78 LD

[Text] It has been learned from a medical source this evening that in general the health of President Houari Boumediene, president of the republic and the Council of the Revolution, is stable and his treatment is continuing. As to his neurological condition, the president is still in a coma which, it is believed, could change. The encephalograph is subnormal and resuscitation continues under good conditions.

APS has commented on the feverish campaign being waged by some foreign information media, in this respect, it writes that some foreign information media have waged a biased campaign about the health of brother President Houari Boumediene. It is evident that the reports propagated by these media are baseless and fall within the framework of the venomous psychological campaign which under no condition will affect the dignity, vigilance or sense of responsibility of the Algerian people in times of hardships.

Indeed, President Boumediene has never fallen in the state of deep coma they talk about. The apparatus used shows that his brain is normal, contrary to the lies propagated by some biased information media. The president is not at all in a state where his life is being artificially extended by the use of medical equipment.

It has been learned also that the team of Chinese medical experts which arrived in Algeria yesterday has joined the Algerian and foreign professors taking care of the health of President Houari Boumediene.

YAHIAOUI RUMORED TO BE BOUMEDIENE'S SUCCESSOR

TA021846Y Paris AFP in English 1835 GMT 2 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Paris, Dec 2 (AFP)--Algerian leaders have already chosen the man to replace President Houari Boumediene, according to an Arab weekly newspaper published here today.

Citing reports from Algeria, the paper named Mohamed Salah Yahiaoui as the man who will follow President Boumediene, reportedly close to death in an Algiers hospital.

Mr Yahiaoui, a powerful member of the eight-man Revolutionary Council was the unanimous choice of his colleagues, the weekly AN NAHAR ARABE ET INTERNATIONAL reported.

Algerian Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika was to become prime minister in a shake-up of the country's system of leadership, the paper added.

President Boumediene at present combines the posts of president, prime minister, party chief and defense minister.

The Revolutionary Council settled on Mr Yahiaoui and Mr Bouteflika as the men most likely to win support from the Algerian Army and the international and Arab communities, the paper explained.

COUNCIL OF REVOLUTION STATEMENT ASSURES CONTINUITY

LD040030Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 3 Dec 78 LD

[Text] The Council of the Revolution met today and issued the following statement:

The situation currently due to the illness of the brother President Houari Boumediene should not make us forget the aim which the Algerian revolution defined the wake of the 19 June 1965 corrective movement. The building of a state is not affected by events, and will not vanish when men have vanished. The Algerian revolution has realized and continues to realize the aims of 19 June under the wise leadership of President Boumediene, who on more than one occasion has shown himself to be a statesman who is farsighted, concerned with the aspirations of the masses and anxious to realize the masses' ambitions for freedom, dignity and progress.

The Algerian revolution has actually been able to realize in the domestic field achievements which will remain the pride of Algeria, people and leadership, forever. The industrial revolution, the agricultural revolution, voluntary work, socialist management of institutions, the programs of regional balance, free medicine, national service and so on have placed Algeria on the path of progress and development and have enabled the popular masses, through the National Liberation Front and through its popular organizations, its basic forces and its councils at all levels, to control their own fate in freedom, dignity and progress; thus the socialist revolution has gone beyond the point of no return. This is exactly what guarantees the safety of the revolutionary march and blocks the road in the face of those who seek to lie in wait for the revolution.

At the same time, the Algerian revolution has been able to pursue in the external field a policy which conforms with its basic options and with its deep-rooted traditions of defending the causes of freedom and liberation, of standing up to imperialism and colonialism, and of working for a just distribution of wealth. It is not mere coincidence that the Algerian revolution throws its full weight, within the framework of the nonaligned countries and the countries of the Third World, behind the struggle for a new world economic system; at the same time it has not for 1 day neglected its duties toward the causes of liberation in the Arab world, in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The institutions of the Algerian State have, at all levels, been involved in these gigantic battles for the dignity of man and for the liberation of man from exploitation; these institutions were established on a constitutional basis, so as to consolidate and strengthen the revolutionary legitimacy which derives its strength from the will and support of the people.

Those who imagine that the illness of President Houari Boumediene, the leader of our revolution, has placed the state's institutions within the reach of the intrigues of the enemies of the revolution and the homeland are wrong. These institutions have defined the means and methods which, when need be, can face all natural problems. The Council of the Revolution represents one of the guarantees for the continuation of these institutions in performing their tasks regardless of circumstances.

The daily meeting of the Council of the Revolution is motivated by the council's concern to see that all the institutions play their role within the framework of the National Charter which opened a new stage in the life of the Algerian revolution.

The National Charter, which was the outcome of an unprecedented wide-ranging popular discussion, and which the people endorsed and were anxious to implement, will remain the basic foundation from which the directives will be derived and in the light of which the political line will be defined, and on whose basis a line can be drawn between the supporters and the enemies of the revolution. The living force of the nation which adheres to the National Charter, now more than ever, is prepared to stand up to anyone who is tempted to harm the revolution or to complicate or to detract from its popular gains.

The Algerian people's devotion and love for their leader are an expression of this people's firm determination to protect the gains of the revolution and to stand united against its enemies. Our great people have provided sufficient evidence of their vigilance which will remain the effective weapon to overcome all difficulties which may face Algeria now and in the future.

COUNCIL OF REVOLUTION REDISTRIBUTES POWERS

LD032216Y Paris Domestic Service in French 2100 GMT 3 Dec 78 LD

[Summary] There is no change in the condition of the Algerian president, but the Council of the Revolution has issued a communique. Alain Menargues analyzes it for us:

[Menargues] "The measures which have been taken are measures of conservation." "The Council of the Revolution, which has always surrounded Houari Boumediene, is reported to have decided a few days ago to take these conservation measures in order to maintain the country's political cohesion and constitutional legality, while acting as democratically as possible. The essence of these measures is a sort of redistribution of responsibilities between four of the eight members of the council:

"Col Chadly Bendjedid is entrusted with national defense, meaning the army and military security;

"Col Ahmed Draia is responsible for the country's security, therefore for the gendarmerie and the police;

"Abdelaziz Bouteflika, for his part will coordinate the action of the government and will be responsible for foreign relations;

"As for Col Salah Yahiaoui, he retains responsibility for the party and the mass organizations.

"These dispositions would naturally be temporary, and should normally end with the resignation or death of Houari Boumediene. And then the constitution would come into force. Although these measures are not official, it seems that the Council of the Revolution is now certain that Houari Boumediene will no longer be able to exercise his role.

"One fact is also to be noted: Only four out of the eight members of the Council of the Revolution have thus been given definite responsibilities."

SUDAN

MINISTER DENIES SUDAN CONSIDERING RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

LD302136Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Nov 78 LD/EA

[Text] Regarding reports attributing certain remarks to Mr Ali Shummu, minister of culture and information, carried today by the Egyptian press and based on reports in the Israeli newspaper, Jerusalem POST, the minister has issued the following statement of clarification:

(1) I have indeed stressed that Sudan supports every effort toward peace within the framework of the two Camp David accords. Nonetheless, I assured the press correspondent that Sudan has at no time had cause to consider the issue of relations with Israel and that there is nothing at all that justifies even contemplation of this. I also stressed that what has been done and what is being done by Egypt and Israel in this regard is in implementation of an agreement between them, to which Sudan is not a party.

(2) I assured the press correspondent that Israel's intransigence in the recent stages of the negotiations represented a true threat to the peace efforts and that through this intransigence Israel was undermining everything that had been achieved during previous negotiations and that there was no way of achieving comprehensive peace in the region except by linking the peace agreement with Egypt with a specific timetable for holding a referendum in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and guaranteeing the legitimate rights of the people of Palestine.

(3) The statements were published under headlines that ran directly counter to their content. This serves no one's interests. Such statements represent government policies. They are not determined by transitory press statements, nor do they add anything to them. Rather they are issued by legal institutions and after elaborate studies. [as heard]

The SUDAN NEWS AGENCY reports from Cairo that the Egyptian newspapers today quoted from the Israeli newspaper, Jerusalem POST, open and baseless statements attributed to Mr Ali Shummu, minister of culture and information, alleging that he said that Sudan would look into the question of relations with Israel if the Israeli-Egyptian peace process developed satisfactorily.

It is noteworthy that Mr Ali Shummu is heading the Sudanese delegation at the meetings of the technical committee for religious affairs, culture, information, youth, sports and tourism integration between Sudan and Egypt, currently being held in Cairo.

SUDAN REPORTS 'ATTACK' BY ETHIOPIANS

LD031752Y Mogadiscio Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 3 Dec 78 LD/EA

[Text] The Sudanese newspaper AL-AYAM today revealed that Abyssinian forces, using tanks, armored cars and heavy weapons, have launched an attack on the eastern part of Sudan and occupied farmland in the country.

The report adds that the Sudanese Armed Forces have been sent to the area in a bid to repulse the Abyssinian forces, which have always shown expansionist intentions by invading neighboring countries. The paper added that large numbers of Abyssinians had fled to Sudan to escape from the brutal Abyssinian regime.

NUMAYRI TO TOUR TANZANIA, UGANDA, ZAMBIA, KENYA 5 DEC

JN021455Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 2 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 2 December--President Numayri, chairman of the Organization of African Unity [OAU], will leave for East Africa on Tuesday morning on a tour that will include Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Kenya. Once in Uganda and Tanzania, his excellency will continue his efforts to solve the dispute between the two countries in order to contain the whole problem. These efforts come as a followup to the previous efforts in this regard.

During this tour, the president will also respond to the invitation of Zambian President Kaunda to visit Zambia and be briefed on the latest developments of the Rhodesian question and the results or repeated savage attacks against the Zambian territories.

The president will also meet with the leaders of the liberation movements in Rhodesia, Namibia and South Africa. He will also meet for the first time with Kenyan President Arap Moi, who succeeded the late President Jomo Kenyatta, and discuss with him bilateral relations as well as the issues of the African Continent in general.

BEGIN: ISRAEL STILL WILLING TO SIGN U.S. DRAFT TREATY

NC030612Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 3 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Begin says President as-Sadat's response on the peace treaty has not been positive. But the prime minister still believes peace with Egypt will be achieved.

Speaking to a UJA [United Jewish Appeal] delegation in Jerusalem, the prime minister disclosed that Israel had conceded two very important amendments to the preamble in the treaty in the hope that Egypt would do the same. Begin again reiterated that Israel was willing to sign, without delay, the American draft treaty of November 11th. The prime minister added that Israel is determined to faithfully carry out all the commitments under the Camp David accord as signed in September.

CABINET INCLINED TO CONTINUE TALKS WITH EGYPT

TA031523Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 3 Dec 78 TA

[Text] The cabinet will be prepared to continue the negotiations with Egypt, on the basis of the contents of the compromise letter proposed by the Americans, regarding the setting of a target date for the holding of elections to the autonomy institutions. This trend was noted in the cabinet debates today despite the fact that no decision was made on this matter.

However, there is no willingness in the cabinet to renew negotiations over the peace treaty or its appendixes. Israel also insists on its view of not agreeing, under any circumstances, to setting a timetable. Our correspondent says the prime minister said at the cabinet session today, specifically, that he was adamant in his view that no agreement should be given to a date or a timetable.

Our correspondent adds that the cabinet today officially authorized Prime Minister Menahem Begin's trip to Oslo.

Report on Cabinet Session

TA03169Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 3 Dec 78 TA

[From the IDF Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] We will open with a report on the cabinet session, with remarks made by Prime Minister Menahem Begin at the end of the session.

[Begin--begin recording] The cabinet session today was divided in two. In the first part a political debate was held. The cabinet members studied the letter to me from the president of Egypt and made their comments. This afternoon I will write the reply to the president of Egypt and tomorrow, I hope, I will be able to hold consultations with several ministers about the determination of the final text of my reply. This is an important contact between the two governments and it has been agreed between them that the letters will not be published, unless it is decided otherwise by both of them.

[end recording]

Menahem Begin is writing the text of the reply to the president of Egypt. Further details about the political part of today's cabinet session are given in the survey by our correspondent Yosi 'Abadi.

['Abadi--live] What occurred today in the political section of the cabinet session could well be called a discussion, rather than a debate, about the letter As-Sadat sent to Begin. Agreement on the required reply was general. The remarks made at the session analyzed the letter and concerned the text of the prime minister's reply.

The reports from the United States about talks between the prime minister of Egypt, Mustafa Khalil, and President Carter and Secretary of State Vance did not reach the cabinet table. It may be that they will be debated in the consultation the prime minister will hold tomorrow with the foreign minister and defense minister over the final formulation of his reply [to As-Sadat].

President As-Sadat's letter which was put before the ministers today, reached the prime minister on Thursday. It consists of several pages, is rather flowery English, and was typed in cursive [type]. It apparently contains a repeat of the two Egyptian demands: to cancel a paragraph in article 6 of the peace treaty, a paragraph dealing with the treaty's precedence over other treaties signed by Egypt, and to set a timetable for establishing the autonomy, including a target date for the elections to the autonomy council. As far as can be seen, the demands are mentioned in the letter as an aside. The main part consists of reasoning and explanations of the demands themselves. It is noticeable that As-Sadat's intention in sending the letter was to calm down suspicions, but the letter is written in a tone of playing with words and the claims in it are not practical and certainly cannot calm down suspicions. That being so, there is no breakthrough in the freeze in the negotiations.

Despite this, the exchanges of letters were defined by the prime minister as an important contact, and maybe the importance lies in the directness of the contact, without mediation, even while there is a break in the negotiations.

More on Cabinet Session

TA031807Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 3 Dec 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Excerpt] [Correspondent Zevi Libar] At today's session the cabinet also authorized, as the law required, the prime minister's trip to Oslo. Defense minister 'Ezer Weizman was the only minister to raise the question of whether the trip should be reconsidered, among other things, in view of the fact that President As-Sadat will not go to the award ceremony. In the debate which developed after that comment, Minister Burg supported the prime minister's trip. He commented, among other things, that if a decision were made today that the prime minister would not go to Oslo, President As-Sadat might well change his mind, as he already did several times last week, and announce that he had decided to participate in the ceremony. And what would we do then, asked Dr Burg? After that assertion and short remarks made by the prime minister himself on the trip, 'Ezer Weizman said both the explanations and the trip were acceptable to him.

At the end of today's political session no decision was made about holding another cabinet session this week, despite the fact that up to this morning no report had arrived from the United States on the talks by the prime minister of Egypt, Mustafa Khalil, in Washington. Neither was the question of the return of the Israeli negotiating team to Washington raised in any way.

BEGIN, DAYAN DIFFER ON RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS

TA040925Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 4 Dec 78 p 1 TA

[By 'Uzzi Benziman]

[Text] Differences in tone between Begin and Dayan regarding the possibility of a resumption of the negotiations between Israel and Egypt reemerged yesterday.

During yesterday's cabinet session, Moshe Nissim, minister without portfolio, sought to determine if the cabinet decision of 2 weeks ago--on accepting the draft agreement but rejecting the U.S. compromise proposal regarding the "target date" for establishing the autonomy and on rejecting any further negotiations on the agreement's articles--also applied to the accompanying letter. In accordance with the U.S. proposal, this letter should fix the procedures for establishing the autonomy, including the date for holding elections. Minister Zevulun Hammer joined Nissim, reminding the cabinet that its decision of 2 weeks ago contained a concession on previous Israeli positions in regard to the formulations which appeared in the preamble to the agreement.

In reply to the remarks by the two ministers, Mr. Dayan said that while Israel was prepared in principle to hold a dialog with Egypt, in accordance with previous decisions of the cabinet, there was no room for a resumption of the talks if they were to be focused on the problem of the linkage, the standing of the agreement or the setting of dates for the implementation of the autonomy, because Israel has no new solutions to offer on these issues.

The prime minister spoke in a different tone. He said there was room to resume the negotiations with Egypt over the formulation of the accompanying letter, but under no circumstances could agreement be given to the setting of a timetable for implementation of the autonomy. Some of those taking part in the debate supported the prime minister's view, but no decision was made on this matter.

At one point in yesterday's session, Minister 'Izer Weizman asked why the Israeli delegation should not be sent back to Washington.

ISRAELI RECEIVES EGYPTIAN MESSAGE ON WEST BANK

TA011541Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 1 Dec 78 p 18 TA

[By 'Oded Geranot]

[Excerpt] An Israeli personage has recently received a message from a most senior Egyptian figure. The content of the message, which was characterized by sincerity and a tone of personal confession, directly touched on the crisis in the Washington talks, especially over the "linkage" between the peace treaty and the autonomy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

"The difficulties foreseen with regard to the autonomy have proved to be most serious," the message says. "In contacts (eith personalities) in the West Bank we have learned there is nobody to talk with (about the establishment of the autonomy institutions).

"The main reason is that King Husayn is not only unprepared to join the negotiations but he also puts spokes in the wheels of the autonomy and instructs his supporters in the West Bank not to cooperate with us (with the Egyptians)."

In contrast, the message hints of a greater Egyptian optimism concerning the chances of establishing the autonomy in the Gaza Strip within a reasonable period "since there is somebody to talk with there."

Authoritative Israeli elements generally tend to confirm the contents of the message although they are not ready to admit that they know of the contacts Egypt held with political personages in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in order to examine their position on the autonomy.

In everything pertaining to the West Bank it seems that all Egyptian contacts have so far indeed ended in a total failure. The Egyptian influence in Judaea and Samaria is minimal and the local leaders--those supporting the PLO and those supporting Jordan--have expressed firm opposition to taking part in the autonomy plan.

The message of the Egyptian personage did not mention the PLO as an obstacle to the establishment of autonomy in the West Bank, although it is entirely clear that the Egyptians are well aware of the existence of this factor alongside King Husayn. PLO spokesman Muhammad Labadi said in Beirut a few days ago that anybody who displays readiness to participate in the autonomy plan will find himself in trouble among the Palestinian people, and all the more so with the PLO. Labadi disclosed: "We have already expressed out threats and whoever cooperates with the enemy will be considered a traitor to his people."

However, the Egyptians are angrier at King Husayn who was presented with the possibility of joining the negotiations. Therefore, it is precisely the king who is mentioned in the message as the one who is acting to foil the Egyptian contacts with West Bank personalities regarding the establishment of autonomy.

The Egyptian message reveals greater optimism concerning the situation in the Gaza Strip. Egypt has recently invested great efforts in strengthening the camp of its supporters in the strip that was under Egyptian rule during 1948-1967. Most of the contacts are conducted with Gaza's iman, Shaykh Hashim al-Khazindar, who has been negotiating with Egyptian officials in Cairo for several days already. However, the Egyptians are trying to exert pressure on other Gaza Strip personages, although not all of them are rushing to comply with these pressures.

JERUSALEM SOURCE ON ISRAELI STANCE ON AUTONOMY

TA011944Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1505 GMT 1 Dec 78 TA

[From the Weekly Newsreel]

[Text] The debates about Israel's position in the negotiations on the matter of the administrative council to be established in the territories are now in the final stages.

The interministerial committee which was appointed to prepare recommendations on this issue, headed by the director general of the prime minister's office, Dr Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, is due to finish preparing its recommendations and it will give the cabinet a report in the coming weeks. The positions crystallized in the defense establishment on autonomy in the territories were presented to the prime minister's office this morning. The Ben-Elisar committee includes members who are directors general of government ministries, representatives of the IDF and the security services.

Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer spoke about the recommendations being crystallized and the political viewpoints behind them with a senior political source in Jerusalem and also with circles close to the committee. Here is his report:

[Schiffer--live or recorded] The most closely held secret in the country today is called autonomy in Israel. When the birth pangs of this embryo will come to an end is not yet known. Concerning the date of its birth there is a fierce argument among its progenitors. In this case, they are three: the Government of Israel, the U.S. administration and the Egyptian Government. There is almost nothing on which there is agreement between the sides over everything connected with the self-rule to be established in the territories. The dispute touches on several basic points: the date for the establishment of the self-rule, its authorities and the ways in which it will exist in the 5 years intended for its lifetime.

The cabinet gave the special committee headed by the director general of the prime minister's office, Dr Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, the task of preparing recommendations on which the cabinet's position will be based on the negotiations due to open on the matter of the autonomy right after the peace treaty with Egypt is signed. While the committee is still holding its debates in great secrecy, sharp arrows of criticism have been shot at the matter of the autonomy. The leaders of the Labor Party claim that the seed of the Palestinian state in the territories has been sown in the very fact of establishing the self-rule and so, as the chairman of the Labor Party, MK Shim'on Peres, has said, the alignment will not support the autonomy if the matter is brought to the Knesset for approval.

A senior political source in Jerusalem reacted this week, in a talk with me, to these attacks. Israel, he said, agreed to self-rule in the territories and that is that. If the institutions of the self-rule, when they are established, fly the banner of Palestine, the Government of Israel will regard this as a violation of the Camp David agreements and it will return the situation to what it was. The military government--which, in accordance with the agreement signed at Camp David, will not be canceled and will not leave the territories, but will retreat from the present civilian control centers--will return to the Arab towns and settlements, the political source emphasized.

The autonomy program, he said, is aimed at three objectives: first, to prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state through giving the possibility of self-rule; second, to try to dry up the source of the venom in the Israeli-Arab dispute--the problem of the Palestinian Arabs; and third, to create conditions for coexistence in the territories between Israelis and Arabs.

The Ben-Elisar committee is now concluding preparation of the negotiations file. This file contains replies to questions already presented many times recently. These include: what is the source of the authority of the administrative council; in what way will the elections to the council be held; where will the IDF be stationed; who will be responsible for internal security; who will hold the state lands; how will Israeli settlement continue; as well as other economic and legal issues.

The political source with whom I spoke said that the government was aware of the fact that there may be a possibility that PLO sympathizers will gain most of the places on the administrative council. This is a situation we are inheriting today after the previous defense minister permitted the holding of elections to the local authorities in the territories. Israel will be walking a tightrope over the coming years, the political source confirmed. We will not be able to oppose those who will be the representatives, but as soon as they declare themselves to be a legislative council, Israel will cancel the whole process.

One of the best known things about the Ben-Elisar committee is that in its debates an attempt was made to guarantee the state's interest regarding the future of the Israeli presence in the territories. The committee's legal experts prove on paper a position they have prepared, that Israel is the heir to the Jordanian crown council as concerns the million dunams of state lands in the territories and also the water sources in the West Bank. The source of the authority of the self-rule will be granted, from the legal aspect, by an order from the military government, which will not, as stated, be canceled in the territories, but will withdraw.

Israeli settlement will continue and will be renewed in about another 2 weeks after the 3 months of freeze agreed to by the prime minister at Camp David. The chairman of the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs, Minister Ari'el Sharon, at the end of this week said this on the subject:

[Sharon--begin recording] I think the prime minister has explained unequivocally the positions of the Government of Israel on this issue and it has been stated clearly, both on the addition to the population in the settlements in Samaria and on the establishment of new settlements on the Golan Heights and in the Jordan rift valley at the end of the 3 months set for the negotiations, and I believe that Israel's intentions are to continue both with settlement actions--new settlement actions, in the places I mentioned--and with the maintenance of the existing settlements. I do not see any possibility of Israel existing without settlement, and the settlement's contribution and importance as a security component of prime value has not lost one iota as a result of the fact that we have been forced, to our regret, to concede settlements in Qidmat Sinai. [end recording]

[Schiffer] The rights of the Israeli settlers in the territories in all aspects have been guaranteed in the Ben-Elisar committee's recommendations. The IDF will be positioned close to the settlements and a network of roads which will bypass the Arab settlements and connect the Israeli settlements with each other and with the green line will be built in the near future.

Israel will guarantee, too, that it will be a partner in the local police to be established in the territories. A senior political source said that the question of sovereignty over the territories has remained open. The State of Israel regards itself as having the main interests in the territories and so it will not agree that its interests should be harmed since it will regard this as a blow at the future of the country. These were remarks made by the senior political source.

In order to guarantee that the Israeli settlers will enjoy the rights of the citizens within the green line, a proposal has been crystallized in the Ben-Elisar committee to the effect that the autonomy's reach refers to individuals and not to territory and thus Israeli sovereignty will apply to the Israeli settlers in the territories. How are the Arabs of the territories reacting to the Israeli ideas about their future in the self-rule which will be established for them? The defense establishment thinks that over the last 1 and 1/2 years conditions have been created for the acceptance of the autonomy. Life in the territories has been characterized by a relaxed atmosphere and the proof of this is that no curfew has been imposed in the territories during this period.

The military government in Judaea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip has recently prepared several surveys in which inhabitants' positions on the autonomy have been examined. They also examined the question of what the results of elections for self-rule would be if they were held in the near future. Both in Judaea and Samaria and in the Gaza Strip, it emerges from the surveys, PLO supporters will gain the majority. From the surveys held in Judaea and Samaria it emerges that there is a majority for the opponents of the autonomy as it is presented by Israel today.

But there are many problems still to be faced before election day in the territories. The Government of Israel is not prepared, under any circumstances, to agree to the setting of a timetable for the holding of the elections to the autonomy's council. The prime minister was quoted on this issue as having said this: First of all, suitable conditions must be created; it must be guaranteed that the elections will not be held under the shadow of a threat by a PLO member's Kalashnikov. And if this is so, the cabinet will debate the proposals to be submitted by the Ben-Elisar committee in the next few weeks for a long time.

LABOR PARTY TO DEBATE STAND ON PEACE ACCORD

NC030748Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 3 Dec 78 NC

[Text] A belief is growing in the Labor Party that the party should determine its position on the political issues before the government determines its own stand on this subject. Our correspondent Asher Schwartz has learned that a majority is crystallizing in the party supporting the approval of the peace accords. The Labor Party Bureau will meet in 3 days in order to continue the debates, with the participation of the Labor faction's Knesset members and the MAPAM group. Our correspondent has also learned that MK Shelomo Hillel's group has decided to submit a proposal at this meeting calling on the Labor Party to adhere to the principle of defensible borders which are not identical to the 1967 borders. It has also been proposed that the Labor Party express its objection to the evacuation of settlements in the Jordan Valley, Gush 'Ezion and southern Gaza in a manner identical to the evacuation of the Rafah approaches settlements.

Young Guard Urges Support

NC030832Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 3 Dec 78 NC

[Text] The Labor Party's young guard has called on the party to announce its support for the peace treaty in the Knesset. The young guard also believes that granting Egypt a position in the Gaza Strip should be given positive consideration.

POST: AUTONOMY ISSUE SHAKES LABOR SUPPORT FOR TREATY

TA040825Y Jerusalem POST in English 4 Dec 78 78 p 3 TA

[By Sarah Honig, POST political reporter]

[Text] Tel Aviv--Rival groups within the Labour Party are sharpening their swords in anticipation of a renewed debate within the party on peace treaty issues, particularly on the questions surrounding the proposed autonomy for Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. The party's Political Bureau and Knesset faction are scheduled to tackle the issues on Wednesday.

The renewed controversy within Labour has been caused by the demands of two opposing groups that the party make its stand on the issues clear to the public even before the government is ready to submit the peace treaty for ratification.

On one side is the "hawkish" Labour group headed by MK Shelomo Hillel. The group demands that Labour present the nation with a plan of its own and that it do so independently of the government's moves.

Taking the opposite stand is the generally "dovish" young leadership group which is concerned about growing indications that Labour's support for the peace pact has weakened. The party must make it clear that it will back the treaty regardless of flaws already in it, the young leadership group asserts.

Recent statements by party chairman Shim'on Peres that the government can no longer consider Labour support for the peace agreement as automatic are seen as reflecting the growing unease within the party. At the same time Peres' statements are fanning the flames of internal disagreement.

Party observers told the Jerusalem POST that over the past few weeks there has been "a considerable erosion in Labour's support of the peace package, with second thoughts centering chiefly around the issue of autonomy. The general belief is that if the issue came to a showdown today the majority of Labourites would approve ratification of the peace treaty, but when it comes to the autonomy question it is felt that the Hillel group could draw much support, even from those within Labour who could not possibly be seen as sympathetic to the hawks. Thus among those now backing the arguments of the Hillel group are MK's Aharon Yadlin and Avraham Katz-Oz. Others who would not openly identify with the group indicate that as far as the autonomy is concerned they are in agreement with the hawks.

Statements on the question made by Israeli Arabs are said to have sounded a warning for many Labourites. Galilee and little triangle Arabs have recently begun demanding their own autonomous zones, arguing that they are as much Palestinian as their kinsmen across the green line.

At present it is estimated that the hawkish wing of Labour can count on the support of at least 10 MK's, with its strength still on the ascendancy. It is also not ruled out that the group may forge unofficial ad hoc alliances with such non-Labour groups as MK Ge'ula Kohen's Herut loyalists circle and MK Yiga'el Horowitz's La'am faction.

The Hillel group held meetings here over the weekend aimed at the revival of the "Allon plan" for territorial compromise. There is general support within the group for Allon's latest proposals that the autonomy, if it must be established, apply only to those regions most heavily populated by Arabs and that the Jewish settlement areas in the Jordan Valley, the 'Ezyon bloc, and the southern Gaza Strip be left out of the autonomy zones.

SHAY PARTY ENDORSES CAMP DAVID ACCORDS

NC030741Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 Dec 78 NC

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] The SHAY Party, which has hitherto abstained from publicly voicing its opinion on the Camp David accords, will start an information campaign today in order to urge the public to refrain from condemning the draft of the Camp David accords. This was stated to our correspondent by MK Amnon Rubinstein. He added that the peace proposed in the draft accord, which was approved by the government, is good for Israel and that there is no substitute for it. He believes that one should face peace with one's eyes open, even if a linkage is to be appended to the two agreements.

Our correspondent Dan Eshel spoke with MK Amnon Rubinstein:

[Rubenstein--begin recording] This linkage issue was specified in the Camp David accords. In these accords, two agreements were simultaneously signed: One is a framework for peace settlements, and the linkage was specified in it during the same meeting. One can understand the views of those who objected to the Camp David accords from the beginning. However, those who understood the meaning of the Camp David accords and voted for them--and in my opinion the majority of the Israelis support these accords--must understand that the linkage, from a political point of view, was specified. [end recording]

Nevertheless, adds MK Rubinstein, the peace agreement with Egypt must not be conditional.

[Rubenstein--begin recording] We demand that article 6 which was formulated in the draft agreement be left intact, and that this be an international pact in the full sense of the word--that is, this pact should not be contingent on the fulfillment of other conditions. From a legal standpoint, this agreement should be independent, should be given preference and should not be dependent on other pacts.

From a political point of view, only the blind will not be able to see the close link between Israeli-Egyptian relations and subsequent events in Judaea and Samaria. [end recording]

SENATOR BYRD MEETS WITH WEST BANK NOTABLES, ENDS VISIT

NC021035Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 2 Dec 78 NC

[Text] U.S. Senator Robert Byrd has urged a number of West Bank notables to agree to the autonomy plan and the participation of Palestinians in the negotiating process.

Meeting with the notables last night at the American Consulate in Jerusalem, Senator Byrd said autonomy was a useful solution to the Palestinian problem, while the Camp David agreements provided a framework for an overall Middle East peace. This framework, he said, should involve all the parties, and it would be a pity if the Palestinians did not participate. If they accepted the autonomy plan, President Carter, the U.S. Congress and the American people would support them.

Attending last night's meeting with Senator Byrd were five moderate leaders from the territories. The mayors of Bethlehem and Ramallah, along with representatives from East Jerusalem and Nablus, told Senator Byrd that the PLO was the sole representative of the Palestinians. They also raised the question of Jewish settlements and the continued Israeli presence in the territories after the implementation of autonomy. The status of Jerusalem was also referred to, but Senator Byrd made no mention of it in his statement.

More on Meeting

NC030623Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 3 Dec 78 NC

[Text] President Carter's envoy, Senator Robert Byrd, has reportedly told West Bank notables that Israel is losing public support in the United States. Byrd met with the West Bank leaders yesterday. He also reportedly told them that if they accept the autonomy plan, they will get the support of the American people, Congress and the President.

Speaking at a banquet last night, Senator Byrd said that all sides in the negotiations must be flexible so that the talks will not fail. He said time is not working in anyone's favor. Byrd also warned against strident public statements from Israel, Egypt and the United States. The banquet was given by Deputy Prime Minister Yigael Yadin.

Visit Ends

NC031410Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1133 GMT 3 Dec 78 NC

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] About an hour ago, President Carter's special envoy, Senator Robert Byrd, ended a 4-day visit to Israel. Senator Byrd will leave Israel for Amman and from there will go to Damascus, Riyadh and Ankara. He will report to President Carter on his talks in the region. During his visit, the senator met with the prime minister, the ministers and notables from the territories.

Our correspondent Dan Eschel reports from Ben-Gurion Airport:

Senator Byrd refused to reply to reporters' questions. He expressed happiness that the talks he conducted were held in a friendly atmosphere.

[Byrd--in English--begin recording] I am encouraged to believe that Prime Minister Begin is committed to follow up the work that has been so courageously begun by him and by President as-Sadat, and I also know that President Carter is fully committed to continue this work until the culmination of the dream of Camp David has been fully realized. [end recording--announcer translates into Hebrew]

The American people and the Congress support President Carter on this issue and so do I, says Senator Byrd.

Byrd visited the Knesset today and then visited the Yad Vashem memorial. He said he was deeply moved by this memorial.

[Byrd--in English--begin recording] And one can better understand the spirit of patriotism and sacrifice that the people of Israel have in their memory and in their daily life. [end recording--announcer translates into Hebrew]

W. BANKERS REJECT AUTONOMY PLAN IN TALKS WITH SENATOR

TAO31455Y Jerusalem POST in English 3 Dec 78 p 2 TA

[By Richard Bell, POST reporter]

[Text] West Bank notables reaffirmed their opposition to the Camp David autonomy plan for the West Bank and Gaza Strip in a meeting with U.S. Senator Robert Byrd on Friday night in Jerusalem.

The Arab dignitaries said that while the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip seek peace, they cannot accept any settlement that does not provide them with the right of self-determination, provide an equitable solution to the issue of Jerusalem, and call for total Israeli withdrawal and the removal of Jewish settlements from Judaea and Samaria.

One West Bank notable told the Jerusalem POST that Byrd, speaking on behalf of President Jimmy Carter, had urged them to accept the Camp David framework and to enter negotiations on implementing the autonomy plan once Israel and Egypt had signed a peace treaty.

The senator was quoted as saying that "despite some vague phrases," the Camp David agreement constitutes "a good basis" for a Middle East peace settlement. Byrd reportedly "assured" the notables that once negotiations get under way "the Palestinians can rely on American support."

According to the notable, Byrd added that Carter is determined to find a peace solution including a just settlement of the Palestinian problem despite "the present obstacles". Byrd then reportedly assured the dignitaries that the U.S. administration takes a more "even handed" approach to the Arab-Israel conflict than previous American governments have and that in his opinion "the U.S. public is less pro-Israel than in the past."

According to another Arab dignitary at the meeting: "Regarding our rejection of Camp David, there has been no change, and there can be no change."

W. BANKERS UPSET OVER ISRAELI REMARKS ON AUTONOMY

TA031448Y Jerusalem POST in English 3 Dec 78 p 1 TA

[Excerpt] A statement that Israel is determined to maintain military government control in the West Bank and Gaza following the establishment of autonomy there was reported last night to have stirred considerable concern among leaders in those territories.

GAZA MAYOR ON U.S. AUTONOMY SCENARIO, ISRAELI ACTIONS

TA040814Y Jerusalem POST in English 4 Dec 78 p 2 TA

[Text] U.S. diplomats are regularly "attempting to convince" West Bank and Gaza Strip notables that the Camp David autonomy plan will lead to self-determination for West Bank and Gaza Arabs.

Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwy yesterday told the Jerusalem POST that while the Americans have refrained from making a firm commitment on this issue, they continually tell the Arab dignitaries to accept the Camp David agreement. The Gaza mayor said the Americans argue that self-determination and independence are the "logical outcome" of the transition period prescribed for the West Bank and Gaza in the agreement. Ash-Shawwa claims, however, that the Arab dignitaries do not believe that the U.S. scenario for future events accords with existing realities. Ash-Shawwa said that Israel's policies are "proof" that the Jewish state has no intention of ever granting independence to the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza.

"If the Israelis really intended to grant us self-determination, they would not build new settlements or expand existing settlements, or insist that they maintain control over land ownership and registration. Everywhere you go you see bulldozers constantly at work, paving the way for what will one day be Jewish settlements or cities," Ash-Shawwa said.

Ash-Shawwa also accused the military government of denying Gaza residents adequate land for an industrial centre and a cemetery. The mayor claimed that, "after 3 years of us requesting land for these purposes, the military government finally agreed to give us 100 dunams for an industrial site and 95 for a cemetery." Ash-Shawwa insisted that these apportionments will suffice for only about 10 percent of the needs of the Gazans.

A source close to the military government denied that a final decision has been taken on the issues of the land for the industrial site and the cemetery. The source told the POST that the military authorities will do all in their power to meet the requirements of the Gazans on these two issues.

W. BANK COLLEGE STAFF COMPLAINS OF ISRAELI RESTRICTIONS

TA011630Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 1 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Members of Bi'r Zayt College convened a conference of foreign correspondents today and claimed that the military government in Judaea and Samaria was intervening in the university's academic freedom and had arrested 18 of its students without trial. Our correspondent points out that Israeli correspondents were not invited to this meeting. He adds that recently several students from Bi'r Zayt College were arrested in the wake of the discovery of a terrorist network in the territories. After they were released, the students claimed that they were asked about the autonomy during their interrogation.

BEGIN ADVISER DEFENDS PRIME MINISTER'S TRIP TO OSLO

TA040844Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 4 Dec 78 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Excerpt] Yesterday, the cabinet approved Prime Minister Begin's trip to Oslo to attend the Nobel Peace Prize award ceremony. Coprizewinner Egyptian President as-Sadat will not go to Oslo. The vanguard of the Israeli delegation is leaving this morning. This vanguard comprises Dan Patir, the prime minister's adviser for communications and foreign press; Efrayim Poran, the prime minister's military secretary; and security personnel. We asked Dan Patir several questions on the telephone before his departure for the airport: [begin recording]

[Question] We keep hearing about opposition to Begin's trip to Oslo now. For example, the Alineament and MAPAM are asking that the trip be delayed. It was reported that there are also reservations within the cabinet. One of the large morning papers [HA'AREZ] dedicates an editorial to the trip and expresses its opposition to the trip now. Some papers in Oslo have done the same. Do you not think that Begin's trip should have been postponed until a peace agreement is indeed signed between Egypt and Israel?

[Answer] First, you only quote the opponents and for some reason neglect to quote the supporters, both within Israel and abroad, including Norway. There are also supporters, and I think their weight is greater than that of the opponents. Second, my answer to your question is negative for two reasons: 1) The Norwegians have traditionally awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on a specific date, the day on which Nobel himself is commemorated, and the award ceremony cannot be postponed. 2) As for the practical aspect, it seems to me that the public criticism or opposition should be rejected for the following essential reason: Why should we, Israel, accept an Egyptian dictate in this regard? If the Egyptian president does not want or desire to go to Oslo, does it mean that we should not go?

There is another reason why I reject this opposition: Not only should we not be governed by an Egyptian dictate, but it is also Israel's, the prime minister's, right to receive the prize. This right was recognized by the prize committee itself, a public and neutral committee that is not affiliated with any political organization, either Norwegian or international. Israel--with the prime minister at the head of this peacemaking cabinet--has the right as a contributor to peacemaking and as a participant in this peacemaking process to receive this prize. It is due to this active role and not to the coprizewinner that we have been awarded this prize. I would also like to add here that it seems to me that in the past year too much credit has been given to As-Sadat--the peacemaker, the peace-initiator and the owner of the apparently private and exclusive initiatives--while insufficient credit has been given to Israel's efforts right from the beginning as a host to As-Sadat on his Jerusalem visit and as a party to the peace negotiations that have taken place up to now. It seems to me that the role Israel has played in the peacemaking process, which has not received enough credit and appreciation since November last year, is now getting the degree of credit and appreciation it deserves and Israel should not be denied this worldwide acknowledgment. [end recording]

PRIME MINISTER MEETS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF TEHRAN GROUPS

LDO21838Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Dec 78 LD

[Text] A meeting took place this afternoon between Prime Minister Azhari and 100 representatives of various groups of Tehran citizens. In the 2-hour meeting, the prime minister informed the representatives of recent events in the country and their relevance. Referring to the two mourning months beginning the first of December, and their significance in the lives of the Shi'ite people of the country, the prime minister said:

A great deal has been said in the foreign press about this month. As the head of government, I have often been asked about this month. My answer has been: During this month Moslems grow closer to God. Therefore there is no reason to expect trouble. Many people have, out of good intention, advised me to abolish mourning meetings completely; but for me, as prime minister of the only Shi'ite country in the world, it would be a shame to have to prevent such meetings in order to protect peace and security. Consequently, I decided to have these ceremonies held throughout Iran in the best possible manner. My only expectation from the people of my country is to see them alert to the fact that the enemy takes advantage of every opportunity, even of the ceremonies which bring us ever closer to God. You must not allow these atheist and unscrupulous individuals to enter your ranks, for, having been trained, they are easily able to turn a holy meeting into a fighting arena and massacre.

Referring to last night's incidents, the prime minister said: In order to protect your life, honor and property, we must implement the regulations to the letter. If we do not respect laws and regulations, then everything will collapse. Last night's incidents which started around 2200, took place in line with preconceived plans, drawn some time ago. Those responsible for these plans, in their halfwit state, and believing the troops were asleep, launched their coordinated plan from several parts of Tehran, causing fires, shootings and other acts which caused some panic among the people. However, they were unaware that patriotic and devoted soldiers, who have never been and will never be caught napping, were ready to neutralize the attacks and chaos. All through, the security officers, despite hostile attacks, were trying to counter these hostile actions by peaceful means; they were trying to disperse the demonstrators by using tear gas and firing into the air. Considering their orders, officers and commanders were trying to minimize injuries.

The prime minister then said: Nevertheless, it was reported today that last night's incidents claimed seven lives, several injuries and a number of arrests. For me, as an Iranian, even one death is too many; for I always put myself in the place of the families of the victims, and this grieves me, because the occurrence of these incidents results in families becoming cynical about my government.

General Azhari then said: Initially, they had intended to have the clergy held responsible for the current incidents. Fortunately, their eminences and the country's religious leaders realized this and are aware of it. Furthermore, they warned the people to separate their ranks from these treacherous and xenophile elements and not allow the country's religion be threatened with collapse.

The prime minister said: As you know, last night pamphlets and statements were distributed among the people by the banned Tudeh Party, an atheist group. The pamphlets tell people how to stage mourning ceremonies. In one part, these statements urge the people to make use of children in such ceremonies and place them in the front of their ranks, followed by women and then men.

What do they mean by staging such processions? Is it that they intend to continue their treacherous acts under the protection of our innocent children, women and mothers?

The prime minister went on: It is said that under the shelter of religion and religious beliefs, people will never be dominated by communism. Have not truly religious countries been ensnared by this nightmare?

Continuing his remarks, General Ahzari said: Last night, orders on playing prerecorded provocative speeches were simultaneously implemented from all rooftops and positions where these treacherous individuals had taken positions. Is this a healthy Iranian mentality? Is this the product of ideas of a true Iranian patriot?

The prime minister said: We are all in the same boat; we are sailing in a stormy sea. If we take any action which might contribute to harming the balance, then we shall all sink. Therefore, you, who have experienced all the shadows and lights, talk to the youths and members of your families and explain to them the consequences of this action. Remind them to appreciate the opportunity. If Iran (?suffers), then the future generations will hold us responsible.

At the end of his hourlong speech, the prime minister called on people to unite, saying: We are dutybound to defend our territorial integrity with everything in our power; we are determined.

JUSTICE MINISTER COMMENTS ON RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

LD011116Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 1 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Justice Minister Dr Hoseyn Najafi took part in a radio and television interview yesterday and spoke on various issues, including the release of political prisoners, the investigation of the wealth and assets of the royal family, the export of currency from the country and the setting up of the all-state inspectorate organizations.

On the investigation of the royal family's wealth and assets, Dr Najafi said that three prominent judicial personalities had been delegated to begin on Saturday their investigations into the wealth and assets of the royal family. Dr Najafi added: The delegation's operations headquarters will be the Justice Ministry's building No 2 on Sepahbod Zahedi Avenue. The justice minister made the following call to the people: Whoever might have something to say or an allegation to make should contact this mission starting from Saturday morning, producing their evidence.

In an interview with our colleague Anushirvan Jangallu, Mr Najafi announced that on the orders of the shahanshah, the Justice Ministry had undertaken measures toward the release of political prisoners. The justice minister added: On 26 October this year 1,126 persons convicted of contravening security measures were released, and then 210 and 267 persons were granted royal pardons on the occasion of the joyous 'Id Ghadir Khum and on 23 November respectively.

Last Monday a session was held at the Justice Ministry with the participation of representatives of the lawyers association, the Society of Iranian Jurists, the Iranian Society for the Defense of Freedom and Human Rights and the Committee for the Defense of the Rights of Political Prisoners. In this connection, the justice minister said:

I invited and begged the representatives of these societies to come to my office. On Monday at 1700 the gentlemen graciously came to my office and there this same question of investigating the position of political prisoners was the subject of debate, discussion and an exchange of views. Your humble servant begged to inform the shahanshah of the outcome of the talks and a royal command was issued pertaining to the remainder of the political prisoners, whose total countrywide is about 320. When I say that, it is because I do not know the exact figures, but it should be around this figure, give or take four or five. So about 320 people are now in jail as political prisoners according to the laws of the realm, whereas at this time last year we had approximately 2,000 such prisoners. As I have told you, a large number of these people have been released. Pertaining to the release of these 320 people, too, the relevant commissions have investigated a number of these people's dossiers and have expressed their views and proposed release of some 120 persons out of the rough figure of 320. This proposal has been put forward so that it can be communicated to his imperial majesty. There is great hope that in the coming week and, at any rate, before 10 December, which is human rights day, another group of these prisoners will be released. Pertaining to the rest, who number only a few, the commission is constantly investigating and acting on their dossiers, so much so that with regard to this outstandingly small number of people, a proposal will be put forward for them to receive the royal pardon.

Pertaining to the list recently published, which carried the names of people who are alleged to have transferred sums of currency outside the country, the justice minister said: Following the issue of this list, a number of people who were mentioned as having exported currency came to the Justice Ministry and said that this allegation is not true. These people called for the prosecution of those who circulated this list for disseminating lies and calumnies. The justice minister said: A mission has been delegated by judges from the public prosecutor's office to investigate this issue with the greatest impartiality, and should the contents of the list possess any truth, this will be made public, but should it become clear that a part of it is true and the other untrue this, too, will be made public. In short, whatever comes to light following the investigation will be placed at the disposal of the public. The justice minister said: I have asked Tehran's public prosecutor to choose an auditor who is under oath and, after meticulous investigations which will last a long time, to place the results, whatever they may be, at the disposal of the public.

Referring to the Justice Ministry's new bills, the justice minister said: Apart from the bill for setting up the all-state inspectorate organization and the dissolution of the imperial inspectorate organization and the bill for the recall of resigned judges and those who have not reached retirement age and have retired, other bills are being worked out which will be ready shortly. These will both retrieve the Justice Ministry's lost powers and change its position.

KHOMAYNI CALLS ON SHAH'S SOLDIERS TO DESERT

TAO31441Y Paris AFP in English 1436 GMT 3 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Paris, Dec 3 (AFP)--Ayatollah Khomeyni, leader of Iran's Shi'ite Moslem opposition, today urged the shah's soldiers to desert their barracks.

In a "Message to the Iranian People" the exiled religious leader also encouraged oil industry workers to continue their wildcat strikes.

It was the soldiers' right to desert their barracks, he said. He called on the families of army officers to stop helping the "traitor shah" and taking orders from his servants or from foreigners.

"I ask the officers to unite with the people," he said in a communique released to the press here today.

The "bloody massacres" in Iran were the fault of the shah and his supporters but the people were resisting the oppression and were toppling his throne, said the ayatollah from his base in the Paris suburbs.

He warned that any attempt by politicians to form an anti-Islam government would be resisted by the people. Opportunists should keep out of the way and the shah should take the only course open to him and give the power to the people.

His communique called on strikers to prolong their efforts to paralyze the "traitor regime"--in particular the oil industry strike which was preventing the pillage of the nation's wealth, he said.

The ayatollah said he supported the stand taken by Qom religious leaders on the subject of a day of solidarity with strikers in public and private establishments.

RIOTS, CURFEW, DEMONSTRATIONS, DEATHS REPORTED 1-4 DEC

Arson in Esfahan

LD011204Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Last night's power cut in Tehran and in other districts created problems for the people, according to our correspondent's dispatch from Esfahan. Simultaneously with the power cut between 1930 and 2100 last night, several fires took place in Esfahan. Our correspondent's dispatch from Esfahan says that there were acts of arson at the Asia flour mill on Esfahan's Vahid Avenue, a bank on Anushirvan Avenue, two banks on (Harasgan) and Ahmadabad and a store on Esfahan's Khaqani Avenue. Fire engines put out the fires immediately.

Our correspondents report that, as a result of the power cut in Tehran last night, traffic was a problem on certain streets and a great many hospitals faced difficulties.

Curfew in Esfahan

LD011826Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Communique No 66 issued by the military governor of Esfahan and its suburbs: On the occasion of the mourning period in memory of the heroism of the arch martyr, the Holy Husayn ibn 'Ali, and in order to observe the precepts of Islam, beginning Saturday, the first day of Muharram until further notice, all movies, night clubs, cabarets and food stores which sell alcoholic beverages will be closed. The military governorate of Esfahan and its suburbs expects the proprietors of these places to observe the communique and by suspending their activities to contribute to the strengthening and consolidation of the foundations of Islam as well as making preparations for the mourning ceremonies by the local inhabitants possible.

Military governor of Esfahan and suburbs, Maj Gen Reza Naji.

Widespread Demonstrations in Tehran

TA012056Y Paris AFP in English 2053 GMT 1 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Tehran, Dec 1 (AFP)--Demonstrations broke out late today in at least six sectors of southern and central Tehran, and the army opened fire in a bid to break them up.

The demonstrators, defying the martial law curfew, changed religious and anti-government slogans on this eve of a 10-day Shi'ite Muharram mourning period.

The army opened fire from 10 p.m. local time and firing could still be heard, as well as the slogan "God is great," in the affected areas 1 and 1/2 hours later.

Some demonstrators climbed onto roofs to shout their slogans, while others formed small groups outside. The army were reportedly caught off guard and fired in the direction of the rooftops.

Armoured cars were later reported to have appeared on the scene while demonstrators moved into the area of Tehran's telecommunications centre, the central station area and Jaleh Square, near the British Embassy, where bloody demonstrations occurred last September.

Army Opens Fire

TA021753Y Paris AFP in English 1751 GMT 2 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Tehran, Dec 2 (AFP)--Demonstrators took to the streets here today for the second night running, shouting religious and anti-government slogans.

The army opened fire on the demonstrators.

No casualty figures were available but unofficial casualties of last night's clashes were 75 killed and 2,000 wounded.

The demonstrations coincide with the start of the 10-day Muharram Moslem mourning period and are being held in spite of the martial law curfew.

Demonstrations Spread

TA021955Y Paris AFP in English 1944 GMT 2 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Tehran, Dec 2 (AFP)--The demonstrations, which began at 9 p.m. (17:30 GMT), were continuing at 10:30 p.m. in the Haleh area, in southern Tehran.

The demonstrations had also spread to the residential northwest area of the city, to the former capital of Rey and parts of the city centre.

Automatic arms fire continued to be heard, but it was reported that the army was trying to scare off the crowds rather than shoot to kill. The demonstrators were reported to be hiding around street corners or on roof-tops.

The demonstrators were shouting "death to the shah," "God is the greatest" and "the only party is God's party."

Demonstrations, Deaths Reported

LD020920Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 2 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Last night, during the curfew hours stipulated by martial law, groups of people poured into the streets in several parts of the capital and staged demonstrations. Simultaneously, other groups met on rooftops where, shouting sundry slogans, the held demonstrations. The moment these demonstrations began, at 2230 officers endeavored first to draw the attention of the street demonstrators to martial law regulations and used loudspeakers to ask them to return to their homes. But, as this measure was met with an intensification of the demonstrations, the officers, in the course of carrying out their duties, were forced to use tear gas and to open fire.

Last night, our correspondents, because of the martial law regulations, were not able to obtain accurate reports on these incidents. Reports in hand, however, indicate that 7 people were killed in last night's clash and that 24 persons were wounded. Through their contacts with the law enforcement officials, our correspondents have also learned that about 100 demonstrators were arrested. Another report obtained by our correspondents indicates that in certain parts of the capital acts of arson were perpetrated by the demonstrators, in the Shahnaz and Sorayya squares, where several edifices were destroyed by fire. According to the latest report, by the order of General Azhari, the prime minister, a commission has been set up at the prime ministry today to investigate this affair.

Prime Minister Issues Statement

LD021220Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Dec 78 LD

[Text] The following statement was issued today by Gen Gholam Reza Azhari, the prime minister:

As the dear compatriots have already been informed in previous statements, the government genuinely wishes that worthy observances of the mourning ceremonies for the arch martyr [Imam Husayn]--in the months of Muharram and Safar could be held in homes, mosques, and monasteries without any limitation whatsoever. But Iran's enemies, by hatching plots, intend to make use of all possibilities, particularly of the religious sentiments of the people, to achieve their sinister political designs. In published statements and communiques, including a statement by the proscribed Tudeh Party, the people are encouraged to hold religious rallies and demonstrations and to come to the streets in order to provoke clashes with the police and troops.

They have advised also to do the following: resist law enforcement officers; sabotage water and electricity and cut off the flow of oil and other sources of fuel; commit arson and assassination with the use of weapons--a quantity of which have been uncovered--wear shrouds and other clothes intended to win the sympathy and compassion of the people; create artificial traffic jams in the avenues in order to disrupt traffic and upset the people; create obstacles to the movement of relief and law enforcement forces by using the movement of processions, especially by placing small children and women in their forefront and then using this barrier to carry out their plan at the moment of clash with law enforcement officers; use bombs and handgrenades for acts of arson in public places while accusing the government of setting fire to cars and buses; and kill innocent persons and then blame the government for such acts.

The first part of this plan, that is, having various groups leave their houses in various parts of Tehran during curfew hours, began last night. At first law enforcement officers, in order to disperse the crowds, resorted to warnings, tear gas and firing in the air. But, as a result of attacks with stones and, in a number of instances, with arms against the officers, and because of fires set to a number of cars and stores, the officers were forced to defend the lives and property of the people and to defend their own lives. In the clash which ensued, 7 persons were killed, 35 wounded and 115 arrested. A number of officers, too, sustained wounds.

It is perfectly obvious to the government that the enemy, by misusing the holy and (?deep) feelings held by all Shi'ites during the two months of Muharram and Safar, seeks to reach his goal. But could the government permit the enemies of the nation and country to misuse these pure religious feelings and thereby endanger the lives and properties of the people? Could the government remain silent on this course of events and allow a number of people who are, in principle, alien to religion, to drag the life and existence of a nation to dust, blood and fire under the banner of religion? Undoubtedly, no! At a time when a wave of terror and anxiety caused by the spread of rumors and coupled with premeditated plans of the foes of the homeland have endangered public peace and security, could there be a better task for the government than informing the people of the designs and intentions of these internal enemies who are linked to foreign foes and carrying out its duty, which is that of preserving security and public peace and safeguarding the realm and nation?

Therefore, as part of the government's emphasis on combatting every type of rioting and anarchy, under any pretext and in whatever shape, I request all the distinguished ulema and their eminences the great ayatollahs, with their vigilance and intellectual sagacity, to reveal to the people of the homeland the disharmonious tune of our enemies at the time of the rousing epic mourning so that the enemy will not be able to conceal his destructive policy and disrupt the lives of innocent people and families.

This was the text of the government statement following the incidents in Tehran yesterday, last night and today.

Regional Radio Reports

WA031523 [Editorial Report] Ahwaz Khuzestan Domestic Service in Persian at 1330 GMT on 2 December carries in its local newscast various items dealing with the current political situation in Iran. As its lead item, the cast carries the following announcement:

"Dear fellow citizens, on the occasion of the religious ceremonies and the propagation of the truths of Islam, and to provide as much support as possible for the remembrance of the hero of world freedom, His Holiness Imam Hoseyn, peace be upon him, the Military Command of Ahwaz and the vicinity draws the attention of the respected people of Ahwaz to the following points:

"One, the movement of groups of mourners in the streets and public places as expressed in the government's announcement is absolutely forbidden, and this is simply to prevent the influence of seditious elements.

"Two, those who wish to organize religious gatherings must first check with the police or the local gendarmarie base in order to be advised how to obtain a permit from the military command."

Three, the holding of mourning ceremonies in public places, local business areas, and bazaars is forbidden, and they must be in mosques, religious facilities or homes. Since the beginning of martial law in this Sharestan [city region], the respected people of Ahwaz have given the utmost assistance to officials. Likewise, it is requested that the above regulations of this command be observed during the mourning of the months of Moharram and Safar. This will assist in having as respectful an observance of the memorial services and a remembrance of the exalted symbol of decency and purity as is possible, and this will not allow adventurous, seditious, and opportunistic interests to exploit the pure religious feelings of our honorable citizens, which would force this command to initiate a strong response.

[Signed] Military commander of Ahwaz and vicinity, Maj Gen Gholamhoseyn Shams Tabrizi."

Subsequent items in the newscast report telegrams denouncing disturbances and expressing support for the shah. One such report states that in "the telegrams sent to the governor general of Khuzestan, the leaders of the 80,000 people in the (?Janekid) district of the city region of Izeh condemned the burning of public facilities, and another to the governor of "the city region" [not further specified] expressed the (?Lovemi) tribe's "readiness to defend the constitutional monarchy" and "their fidelity to the shah. The cast also carries a report on a gathering "last Thursday" at (?Kevesk) Masjed Soleyman, by 5,000 Bakhtiar tribesmen who "demonstrated in support of the nation and the people." The people reportedly carried posters of the shah, the shabanu and the crown prince.

3 Dec Demonstrations

TA032059Y Paris AFP in English 2049 GMT 3 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Tehran, Dec 3 (AFP)--Anti-shah demonstrations broke out after curfew here for the third night in succession and the death toll since Friday was 12, according to official sources. Opposition sources said the dead numbered from 70-150. Tonight's demonstrations lasted for 2 hours, but were less violent than those on Friday and Saturday nights. There was a heavy rain storm, and a complete electricity cut which plunged the capital into darkness. Firing was heard tonight in Tehran, but no casualty figure was available.

'Lower-Key' Demonstrations

TA031856Y Paris AFP in English 1846 GMT 3 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Tehran, Dec 3 (AFP)--With rain falling on the capital, the demonstrations were apparently lower-key than on the two previous nights. The sectors chosen by the demonstrators were in the southeast, south, northwest, and near the university in the city centre.

Police Station Raided

LD040952Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 4 Dec 78 LD

[Text] At 0520 this morning, following an armed attack by a group of saboteurs on police station No 2 in Tehran, one police guard was reported killed and another wounded. The Tehran police have launched an extensive effort to arrest the saboteurs. Examination of cartridge shells left behind shows that the saboteurs had used Russian Kalashnikov weapons.